

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 478

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Bob Van Steenburg is retiring as chair of the Texas
2 Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Van Steenburg was born in upstate New York and
4 earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and his
5 master's degree from the University of Akron in Ohio; he was
6 commissioned as a lieutenant in the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army
7 and served in Germany, Vietnam, and Korea; his last role in the
8 armed forces was director of communications at Carlisle Barracks in
9 Pennsylvania, and he retired as a colonel after 27 years of service;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, After leaving the military, Mr. Van Steenburg was
12 employed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California for 11
13 years, and during that time he formed a faith-based group to work in
14 opposition to the death penalty; when he moved to Texas in 2002, he
15 continued his efforts and joined the Diocese of Austin's Office of
16 Social Concerns and the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death
17 Penalty; and

18 WHEREAS, At the TCADP, Mr. Van Steenburg is a member of the
19 board of directors and has served as its chair for the past four
20 years; one of his principal roles with the organization has been to
21 communicate concerns about the death penalty to members of the
22 legislature; and

23 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, he enjoys the love and
24 support of his wife, Jean, and the couple take great pride in their

1 four children, Beth, Eric, Sarah, and Mark, and their two
2 grandchildren, Robbie and Nathaniel; and

3 WHEREAS, Bob Van Steenburg has worked tirelessly to engage
4 and educate the public about an issue of great importance, and it is
5 fitting to recognize his efforts in behalf of the Texas Coalition to
6 Abolish the Death Penalty and the people of the Lone Star State;
7 now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate Bob Van Steenburg on his retirement
10 as chair of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and
11 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Mr. Van Steenburg as an expression of high regard by
14 the Texas House of Representatives.