

By: Isaac

H.R. No. 525

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a widely known newspaperman,
2 former state legislator, and strong advocate of social justice with
3 the death of Robert C. Barton, Jr., of Kyle on January 19, 2013, at
4 the age of 82; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of Robert C. Barton and Marietta Fly Barton,
6 Bob Barton was born on April 5, 1930, in Austin and raised in Buda;
7 answering his nation's call to duty, he served in the United States
8 Army during the Korean War and was stationed in Germany; after
9 returning, he earned a teaching degree from Texas State University;
10 although he went on to other pursuits, he remained an avid supporter
11 of education throughout his life and helped form the Hays
12 Consolidated Independent School District; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1952, Mr. Barton and close friend Moe Johnson
14 purchased the *Kyle News*, which eventually developed into the
15 countywide award-winning paper *Hays County Citizen*; he sold the
16 *Citizen* in 1978 and established the publication now known as the
17 *Hays Free Press*, which has also won regional and statewide
18 accolades; throughout his years in the newspaper business,
19 Mr. Barton mentored many journalists and was a strong defender of
20 free speech, while encouraging respect and civility; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Barton backed the struggle of African Americans,
22 Hispanics, and women to gain full participation in the political
23 process, and he was among those who worked to promote equal
24 treatment for Hispanics in the San Marcos school system in the 1960s

1 and 1970s; he was a lifelong Democrat, and the bookstore he opened
2 with his wife in San Marcos, the Colloquium, was often a hub of
3 political activity; he served one term in the Texas House of
4 Representatives after he was elected to represent Blanco, Hays, and
5 Llano Counties and part of Travis County in 1982; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Barton loved to delve into the history of
7 Central Texas and, in 1998, produced a history of Hays County in
8 periodical form; moreover, he devoted the last several years of his
9 life to historical research and continued to write occasional
10 articles for the *Hays Free Press*; and

11 WHEREAS, A stalwart advocate of civil rights and a man of deep
12 convictions, Bob Barton will be deeply missed, but his vision,
13 idealism, and kindness will forever inspire all who had the good
14 fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Robert C. Barton, Jr.,
17 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
18 wife, Wynette; to his sons, Jefferson Word Barton and his wife,
19 Cyndy, and David Gilbreath Slaughter Barton and his wife, Jolana;
20 and to his grandchildren, Zachary Alexander, Mary Rose Bozena,
21 Katrina Wynette, and Jakub Sterling Adam; and to his other
22 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
25 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bob
26 Barton.