

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 805

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Countless lives were touched by the pioneering work
2 of Suzanne McDaniel, a tireless advocate for the rights of crime
3 victims and witnesses, who passed away on May 21, 2012, at the age
4 of 59; and

5 WHEREAS, This compassionate Texan fought to reform the
6 criminal justice system during an era when the needs of victims and
7 witnesses were often overlooked; at the time of her death, she was
8 working as the first-ever director of victim services for the Texas
9 District & County Attorneys Association; and

10 WHEREAS, Born in Houston on January 7, 1953, Suzanne McDaniel
11 was the daughter of Annie Mae Bucy McDaniel and Marion Embree
12 McDaniel; she studied English literature and art at Southwestern
13 University in Georgetown and earned her bachelor's degree in 1974;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. McDaniel subsequently joined the Harris County
16 District Attorney's Office, where she implemented the state's first
17 prosecutor-based victim assistance program under the direction of
18 district attorney Carol Vance; she was also involved in the
19 development of the county's first community interagency councils on
20 sexual assault and family violence as well as the first rape exam
21 protocol for the Houston Hospital and Medical Associations; and

22 WHEREAS, After a decade with the DA's office, Ms. McDaniel
23 relocated to Austin in 1983 to establish the Texas Crime Victim
24 Clearinghouse, the first statewide resource of its kind in the

1 nation; she served as its director for eight years, during which
2 time she wrote a number of groundbreaking reports on crime victims
3 and coordinated educational and training conferences for victims,
4 advocates, and allied professionals; and

5 WHEREAS, She was later tapped to serve the Office of the
6 Attorney General as the victim assistance and communications
7 director for its Crime Victim Services Division; acting as a
8 legislative liaison in that post and others, she played a key role
9 in the drafting and passage of such reforms as the Texas
10 Constitutional Amendment on Crime Victim Rights, the Texas Crime
11 Victims' Compensation Act, and the Texas Crime Victims Bill of
12 Rights; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. McDaniel worked to bring the issue to the
14 national stage by coordinating field hearings for President
15 Reagan's Task Force on Victims of Crime, launched in 1984; she
16 remained at the forefront of the national victims' rights movement
17 as a member of the board of the National Organization for Victim
18 Assistance for more than a decade in addition to sharing her time
19 with other major advocacy groups; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1995, Bill Clinton presented Ms. McDaniel with
21 the President's Award for Outstanding Service to Victims of Crime
22 in recognition of her efforts to guide victims through the recovery
23 process; among the numerous other accolades she received is the
24 Citation of Merit from her alma mater in 2003; moreover, the
25 Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Award was rechristened the
26 Suzanne McDaniel Public Awareness Award in 2008; and

27 WHEREAS, Despite her vast experience and unquestionable

1 expertise, Suzanne McDaniel seldom sought attention for her
2 accomplishments, instead using her resources to comfort, assist,
3 and empower victims to maneuver through the criminal justice system
4 and to rebuild their lives; although her loss is keenly felt, the
5 grace, determination, and selflessness with which she lived her
6 life will continue to inspire others for many years to come; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Suzanne McDaniel
10 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her
11 brother, Marion McDaniel, Jr., and his wife, Mary; to her nephews,
12 Mark McDaniel and Marion McDaniel III and his wife, Valerie, and
13 daughter, Nathalie; and to her other relatives and many friends;
14 and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House
17 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Suzanne
18 McDaniel.