

By: Anchia

H.R. No. 1988

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas joins all Americans in mourning
2 the loss of a determined advocate for stronger democracy and social
3 justice, Robert W. Edgar, who passed away on April 23, 2013, at the
4 age of 69; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Philadelphia on May 29, 1943, Bob Edgar felt
6 the calling to become a minister at age 16, and he went on to earn an
7 undergraduate degree from Lycoming College and a master's degree in
8 divinity from the Drew Theological School; after being ordained, he
9 was the protestant chaplain at Drexel University and served as a
10 pastor at the United Methodist Church in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania,
11 before running for Congress in 1974; and

12 WHEREAS, While serving the people of Pennsylvania in the
13 United States Congress for six terms, Mr. Edgar campaigned to curb
14 wasteful spending and increase the transparency of the government;
15 a defender of men and women serving in the military, he worked for
16 measures to provide benefits for Vietnam veterans and readjustment
17 counseling to treat posttraumatic stress disorder; and

18 WHEREAS, After leaving Congress, Mr. Edgar served as
19 president of the Claremont School of Theology in California, and in
20 2000, he was named general secretary of the National Council of
21 Churches; under Mr. Edgar's leadership, the NCC, a collection of
22 more than 100,000 local congregations and 45 million congregants,
23 embarked on a 10-year effort to defeat poverty; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2007, Mr. Edgar became president and chief

1 executive officer of Common Cause, a nonpartisan organization
2 advocating for an open government; during his tenure, he guided the
3 organization as it lobbied for campaign finance regulations and
4 filibuster reform; and

5 WHEREAS, Bob Edgar was a compassionate leader whose moral
6 compass informed his public service, and the legacy that he leaves
7 behind will continue to inspire all who know of him; now, therefore,
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Robert W. Edgar and
11 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of
12 48 years, the former Merle Louise Deaver; to his sons, Robert,
13 T. David, and Andrew; to his mother, Marion Edgar; to his brothers,
14 Ralph and Richard; to his eight grandchildren; and to his other
15 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bob Edgar.