

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 2266

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the  
2 passing of Marlee Baker of Austin on May 19, 2012, at the age of 80;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Belton on September 30, 1931, Ms. Baker was  
5 the daughter of Paul Bruce Baker and Lillie Lee Isleib Baker; she  
6 graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School and earned her  
7 bachelor's degree in music education at Southwestern University;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, She married Parker C. Folsie, Jr., in July 1951, and  
10 after moving to Austin, they became the parents of two sons, Paul  
11 Gabriel and Parker; the marriage ended in 1957, and Ms. Baker worked  
12 to support her children as an elementary school teacher, piano  
13 soloist for the Austin Symphony Orchestra, writer for the *Austin*  
14 *American-Statesman*, and travel agent; in addition, she served on  
15 the staffs of numerous state legislators, first as a secretary and  
16 then as an office manager; she was administrative assistant to  
17 Barbara Jordan when she became a state senator and was executive  
18 assistant to then-senator Charlie Wilson; and

19           WHEREAS, In 1971, she was joined in matrimony to Cater Joseph  
20 and briefly stopped working, but she soon obtained her real estate  
21 and broker's licenses; she established her own company and sold  
22 commercial property, land, and homes for many years; when her son  
23 Parker entered The University of Texas School of Law, she fulfilled  
24 a long-deferred dream by gaining admission herself at the age of 49;

1 following a divorce, she practiced as a criminal defense attorney  
2 in Austin for nearly a decade; and

3 WHEREAS, Retirement allowed this charming and multifaceted  
4 Texan to pursue her host of interests, including music, movies,  
5 politics, travel, and sports, particularly Longhorn football; a  
6 voracious reader, she especially enjoyed biographies, histories,  
7 and mystery novels; in addition, she adored animals and served on  
8 the board of the Austin Humane Society; she was a kind and loyal  
9 friend, and above all, a deeply devoted mother who encouraged and  
10 supported her sons, making myriad sacrifices in their behalf and  
11 avidly following their careers; in all her endeavors, she was  
12 sustained by a great faith; and

13 WHEREAS, Those fortunate enough to have known Marlee Baker  
14 will remember the way she touched their lives with her wisdom,  
15 strength of character, and wonderful sense of humor, and she will  
16 forever hold a treasured place in their hearts; now, therefore, be  
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Marlee Baker and  
20 extend sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her  
21 sons, Paul Gabriel Folsie and Parker C. Folsie III; to her  
22 grandchildren, Alexis and Connor Folsie; to her former husband,  
23 Cater Joseph; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it  
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House  
27 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Marlee

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1 Baker.