

By: Hughes

H.C.R. No. 137

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A life dedicated to the service of his state and
2 nation has drawn to a close with the death of the Honorable Leo
3 Berman of Tyler on May 23, 2015, at the age of 79; and

4 WHEREAS, Leo Berman was born on October 21, 1935; the son of
5 immigrant parents from Poland and Latvia, he earned his bachelor's
6 degree in political science from Southern Methodist University and
7 then embarked upon an outstanding 22-year career in the U.S. Army;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Berman graduated first in his class at the
10 army's Field Artillery School Officer Candidate School, and he also
11 received diplomas from the army's Air Defense Artillery and Missile
12 School, Armor School, and Command and General Staff College; he
13 served two tours of duty in Vietnam, and he held appointment as an
14 army liaison to Congress for three years; he retired in 1976 at the
15 rank of lieutenant colonel; and

16 WHEREAS, This courageous soldier earned numerous military
17 awards, including three Bronze Stars, the Meritorious Service
18 Medal, nine Air Medals, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf
19 cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with oak leaf cluster,
20 and the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars, as
21 well as the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm and the
22 Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal first class; in 2009,
23 he was promoted to colonel in the Texas State Guard, and his state
24 awards included the Texas Distinguished Service Medal, the Texas

1 Outstanding Service Medal, the Texas Medal of Merit, the Texas
2 Federal Service Medal, and the Texas State Guard Service Medal; and

3 WHEREAS, After returning to civilian life, Mr. Berman worked
4 as a public affairs executive for Sun Exploration and Production
5 Company from 1980 to 1991; he also threw himself into public
6 service, seeking and winning election to the Arlington City Council
7 in 1979 and serving six years, including two as mayor pro tem; in
8 addition, he received gubernatorial appointments to the board of
9 the Texas Army National Guard Armory and to the Texas Advisory
10 Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, which he also chaired;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Berman first won election to the Texas
13 Legislature in 1998, and he served seven terms, until 2013; during
14 his exemplary 14-year tenure as the state representative from
15 District 6, he chaired the Committee on Elections and the Committee
16 on Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations Subcommittee on
17 Budget and Oversight and served as vice chair of the Committee on
18 House Administration; his other committee assignments included
19 Appropriations, Higher Education, and Government Reform;
20 Mr. Berman's accomplishments included helping The University of
21 Texas at Tyler start a nursing program; he was especially attentive
22 to the concerns of his individual constituents, and he took pride in
23 the fact that he answered every phone call, e-mail, and letter
24 personally; and

25 WHEREAS, A man of strong Christian faith, Leo Berman attended
26 Christ Episcopal Church in Tyler, where he was a leading lay member;
27 he also gave generously of his time and talents as a member of the

1 executive committee of the East Texas Area Council of the Boy Scouts
2 of America and as a board member of the Bethesda Health Clinic in
3 Tyler, East Texas Meals on Wheels, Texas College, and the Arc of
4 Smith County, which named him board member emeritus; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Berman's first wife, Cara Sue Hughey Berman,
6 predeceased him, and later in life, he was fortunate to find love
7 again with his second wife, Dr. Lou Ann Berman; he was the father of
8 five children, and he was blessed with seven grandchildren; and

9 WHEREAS, A devoted family man and a dedicated public servant,
10 Leo Berman fought passionately for the ideals and principles in
11 which he believed, and the legacy he leaves behind will continue to
12 inspire all those who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby pay tribute to the life of Leo Berman and extend sincere
15 condolences to his wife, Dr. Lou Ann Berman, to his children,
16 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and to his other relatives
17 and friends; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
20 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
21 the Honorable Leo Berman.