

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 2035

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The untimely death of Jefferson Jones Baskin of
2 Austin on March 25, 2015, at the age of 48, has brought a great loss
3 to the family and friends of this esteemed Texan; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to Pat and Joan Baskin in Midland on June 21,
5 1966, JJ Baskin completed his bachelor's degree in political
6 science at Trinity University; he went on to earn a master's degree
7 from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at The
8 University of Texas at Austin; after starting his career in the
9 office of Texas State Comptroller Bob Bullock, he was hired as one
10 of the first employees in the successful attorney general campaign
11 of Dan Morales; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Baskin was primarily a Democrat, but he worked
13 in behalf of political campaigns for public servants in either
14 party who represented his values, and particularly his support for
15 education; he was a director of the nonpartisan organizations
16 Public Agenda and Texas Lyceum, and in 2013, he co-chaired the
17 latter's first-ever conference dedicated to philanthropy; one of
18 the state's leading experts on philanthropy, he lectured at dozens
19 of conferences and professional events across the state and nation;
20 he also served as an executive-on-loan to San Antonio Mayor Julian
21 Castro's SA2020 for philanthropy as well as for education; and

22 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to education, Mr. Baskin was
23 employed for five years at the Southwest Educational Development
24 Laboratory; he was copresident of the PTA at Mathews Elementary

1 School, and he was president of the Austin Public Library
2 Foundation; through both the Austin Community Foundation and his
3 personal nonprofit organization, Education Capital, he led the
4 annual report and survey efforts for the Texas Education Foundation
5 Network; he was a Trinity University Associate and a member of the
6 Texas Exes Public Affairs Committee and the Coalition for
7 Excellence in Higher Education; in 2011, the Texas Ex-Student
8 Association named him the recipient of its prestigious Top Hand
9 Award; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Baskin was sustained by a strong faith; he was a
11 lifelong Presbyterian and an elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church
12 of Austin, where he served as clerk of the session; for many years,
13 he was a trustee of Mo Ranch, a Presbyterian retreat center, and he
14 chaired its strategic planning committee; and

15 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Baskin shared a fulfilling
16 relationship with his wife, Joy, and he took great pride in his
17 sons, Ben and Judge; his warmth, wit, and kindness brought him a
18 host of friends, and he found great satisfaction in helping to
19 connect like-minded people; when he was diagnosed with cancer in
20 2014, his large circle of admirers established JJ's Fight Club to
21 rally him in his valiant battle against the disease, and the group
22 now has members in all 50 states and well over a dozen countries;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Though it is impossible to gauge the full effect of
25 one person's life, some individuals leave their unmistakable mark
26 on the world as they move through it, and the selfless contributions
27 of JJ Baskin will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough

1 to know him; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Jefferson Jones
4 "JJ" Baskin and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
5 family: to his wife, Joy Surratt Baskin; to his sons, Ben Baskin and
6 Judge Baskin; to his mother, Joan Ragsdale Baskin; to his sister,
7 Becky Baskin Ferguson, and her husband, Doug; to his brothers, Bo
8 Baskin and Steve Ragsdale Baskin and his wife, Susie; and to his
9 many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
12 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jefferson
13 Jones Baskin.