

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life lived with kindness and purpose drew to a
2 close with the passing of noted speechwriter Suzanne Coleman of
3 Austin on July 13, 2017, at the age of 70; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of William Clovis Coleman and Amelia
5 Lary Coleman, Suzanne Coleman was born in Fort Worth on December 24,
6 1946; she graduated from Paschal High School and completed her
7 bachelor's degree in political science and history at Texas
8 Christian University, where she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta;
9 subsequently, she earned a master's degree in political science
10 from The University of Texas at Arlington and pursued doctoral
11 studies at Rice University, but she left academia to volunteer in
12 the gubernatorial primary campaign of Frances Tarlton "Sissy"
13 Farenthold; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman forged a remarkable career in politics,
15 employing her skill as a wordsmith to support enduring democratic
16 values; she gained wide recognition as chief speechwriter for Ann
17 W. Richards, channeling the charismatic governor's bold, witty
18 speaking style and helping elevate simple stories from everyday
19 life into moving commentary that evoked a sense of community;
20 empathetic as well as eloquent, she was equally adept at crafting
21 the penetrating one-liner and gracefully revealing the sentimental
22 streak that she and the governor shared; those for whom she wrote
23 also included two University of Texas System officials, chancellor
24 Mark G. Yudof and executive vice chancellor for health affairs

1 Dr. Kenneth Shine; and

2 WHEREAS, The devoted partner of Mary Jane Leahy, whom she met
3 in 1989, Ms. Coleman relished their trips to New Mexico and their
4 political discussions, the latter not least when they took place
5 over a special and lengthy meal; and

6 WHEREAS, Suzanne Coleman created a powerful legacy through
7 her words, all chosen with the utmost care, and those she has left
8 behind will forever cherish their memories of her wisdom,
9 integrity, thoughtfulness, and wonderfully wry sense of humor; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
12 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
13 Suzanne Coleman and extend sincere condolences to the members of
14 her family: to her partner, Mary Jane Leahy; to her cousins, Mary
15 Land, Melinda Lary-Smith, Lee Ann O'Loughlin, and Amelia Ann Kerby
16 Haltom and her son, Kerby; to her treasured friend, Mimi Purnell;
17 and to all those who mourn her passing; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Suzanne
21 Coleman.

Hinojosa
Israel
Rodriguez of Travis
Howard

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

H.R. No. 216

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 216 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on August 10, 2017.

Chief Clerk of the House