

By: Hinojosa

H.R. No. 216

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.