

By: Thierry

H.R. No. 463

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of Kristi Marie
2 Couvillon-Wise of Austin suffered an immeasurable loss with her
3 untimely passing on October 1, 2010, at the age of 36; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Donna and Paul Kreuzer and Edward
5 Couvillon, the former Kristi Couvillon was born in Texas City on
6 September 20, 1974; after graduating from Clements High School, she
7 earned her bachelor's degree at Trinity University and went on to
8 receive a master's degree in social work as well as a doctor of
9 jurisprudence with honors from The University of Texas at Austin;
10 in 2006, she married John Wise, and the couple became the proud
11 parents of a beloved baby girl, Vivienne Grace; and

12 WHEREAS, From an early age, Ms. Couvillon-Wise demonstrated
13 a strong sense of compassion that ultimately led her to devote her
14 life to helping others, first as a special education teacher and
15 later as a social worker for people living with HIV/AIDS, mental
16 illness, and drug addiction, as well as for the homeless; during her
17 career as an attorney, she was awarded a distinguished George Soros
18 Fellowship, and she represented indigent clients on death row; she
19 was part of a team of attorneys with the Texas Defender Service that
20 successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court for the release
21 of a death row inmate; she was also briefly employed in the Travis
22 County Attorney's Office, and she later opened her own criminal
23 defense practice; named to the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers
24 Association Board of Directors, she further contributed to her

1 professional community as president of Texas Law Fellowships and as
2 manuscript editor for the Texas Journal of Civil Liberties and
3 Civil Rights; and

4 WHEREAS, In her free time, Ms. Couvillon-Wise enjoyed
5 traveling, running, listening to music of all genres, and spending
6 time in nature, and she also found great joy in caring for animals;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Couvillon-Wise greatly suffered with severe
9 postpartum depression after the birth of her daughter, and she lost
10 her torturous battle with the condition on October 1, 2010; the
11 tragic circumstances of her death have since led to the founding of
12 the Pregnancy and Postpartum Health Alliance of Texas, which was
13 established in her honor, and the creation of the 2nd Postpartum
14 Support International Traveling Memory Quilt; moreover, the Texas
15 Civil Rights Project named the Kristi Couvillon pro bono award in
16 her honor; and

17 WHEREAS, Kristi Couvillon-Wise made a positive difference in
18 countless lives, both through the love and kindness she shared with
19 her family and friends and through the work she did to help those in
20 need, and she will forever hold a treasured place in the hearts of
21 all who knew and loved her; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
23 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
24 of Kristi Couvillon-Wise and extend sincere condolences to her
25 loved ones; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of

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1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Kristi
2 Couvillon-Wise.