

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 2308

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A caring and purposeful life came to an untimely end
2 with the passing of Steven Matthew Dekker of Houston on January 9,
3 2016, at the age of 51; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of John and Genevieve Pahls Dekker, Steve
5 Dekker was born on November 3, 1964, in Wichita, Kansas; he was
6 awarded a scholarship to attend both Wichita State University and
7 the University of Nevada--Las Vegas, where he lettered in tennis
8 and graduated with degrees in business administration and hotel and
9 restaurant management; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Dekker went on to work as a professional tennis
11 coach, and after moving to Houston in 1994, he taught at the River
12 Oaks Country Club, coaching Zina Garrison, George Bush, and other
13 well-known clients; along the way, he became one of the early
14 promoters of paddle tennis in the United States, and he traveled the
15 world playing the sport competitively with the U.S. Padel Team; and

16 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan was later hired as director of
17 racquet sports at the Houstonian Health Club and Spa, and in that
18 role he was able to initiate a number of charitable ventures,
19 including a diabetes fund-raiser and a mentoring program for foster
20 children; he also supported the classical music program at Rice
21 University as both a donor and fund-raiser and enjoyed attending
22 performances of the institution's opera students and its symphony
23 orchestra at venues all over the country; and

24 WHEREAS, After he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of

1 brain cancer in August 2013, Steve Dekker's courage, dignity, and
2 commitment to helping others did not waver, and throughout his
3 two-and-a-half-year battle, he devoted himself to advancing the
4 fight against cancer; he was given a seat on the MD Anderson Cancer
5 Center's Patient and Family Advisory Council, and he additionally
6 served as a strong and compassionate voice for patients on the
7 hospital's volunteer services and patient experience steering
8 committees; and

9 WHEREAS, Blessed with a loving family, Mr. Dekker enjoyed a
10 17-year relationship with Gregory Montelaro, with whom he exchanged
11 wedding vows in June 2015; he happily welcomed Mr. Montelaro's
12 children, Brett and Lauren, into his life as his own, and he was
13 further cherished by a wide circle of siblings, nieces, nephews,
14 and extended family, as well as a multitude of dear friends; his
15 youthful exuberance and contagious smile made an impression on
16 everyone he encountered, and his passion for sports and the
17 outdoors led him to some of his favorite pastimes, which included
18 running marathons, waterskiing, and snowboarding; and

19 WHEREAS, Though his journey ended far too soon, Steve Dekker
20 built a life that was extraordinarily rich in professional
21 achievements, in love and friendship, and in meaningful service to
22 others, and he will forever be remembered with tremendous affection
23 by those he leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Steven Matthew
26 Dekker and extend heartfelt sympathy to all who mourn his passing;
27 and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Steve
4 Dekker.