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By:  Anchia H.R. No. 1309

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to a close with the passing of Larry Temple, executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission, on January 5, 2019, at the age of 66; and

WHEREAS, The son of Eugene and Lucille Temple, Larry Temple grew up in Jackson, Mississippi, with the companionship of two siblings, Judy and David; a graduate of St. Edward's University, he began his career in Mississippi, working as a real estate agent and petroleum landman before joining the Mississippi Department of Human Services, where he held the post of deputy executive director for five years; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Mr. Temple was recruited to become the director of welfare reform for the Texas Workforce Commission; he was promoted to executive director in 2004, and he served the agency with distinction in that position until the time of his passing; renowned for his integrity, dedication, and exceptional problem-solving skills, he was instrumental in helping TWC become a national leader in workforce development, and he frequently advised Congress and other states on best practices and employment policy; and

WHEREAS, Among numerous other accomplishments, Mr. Temple managed the TWC effort to aid the Louisiana Workforce Commission in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, even as Texas was managing its own catastrophic damage from Hurricane Rita; one of the most respected figures in his field, he served as president and as a member of the board for the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, and in 2018 he received the Lifetime Achievement Hand Up Award from the American Institute for Full Employment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Temple shared a rewarding marriage with his wife, Benita; he was the proud father of two sons, Brad and Daniel, and he had the pleasure of seeing his family grow to include his daughters-in-law, Shirley and Erin, and his beloved grandchildren, Patrick and Victoria; admired for his determination and his abiding concern for others, he also possessed an engaging sense of humor that was treasured by all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Larry Temple was an exemplary public official whose achievements made a positive difference in the lives of countless Texans, and he leaves behind a record of service that will continue to inspire his colleagues in the years ahead; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Larry Temple and extend deepest sympathy to his family and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Larry Temple.