

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 105

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2019 marks the 46th anniversary of the year
2 the Honorable Mickey Leland was sworn in as a member of the Texas
3 House of Representatives; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Lubbock in 1944, George Thomas "Mickey"
5 Leland III grew up in Houston's Fifth Ward and earned his bachelor's
6 degree in pharmacy at Texas Southern University; while working as
7 an instructor of clinical pharmacy at his alma mater, he developed
8 an educational outreach campaign offering medical screenings to
9 low-income residents; and

10 WHEREAS, Congressman Leland was only 28 when he won election
11 to the Texas House of Representatives from District 88, then
12 located in Harris County; he quickly gained renown as a champion of
13 health care for the poor, and he helped secure passage of
14 legislation giving those in need access to affordable generic
15 drugs; a member of numerous committees, he became the first African
16 American to serve on the Senate-House Conference Committee as a
17 member of the House Appropriations Committee, and he was vice chair
18 of the Joint Committee on Prison Reform; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1978, following three terms in the Texas
20 Legislature, Congressman Leland was elected to the United States
21 House of Representatives; he founded the House Select Committee on
22 Hunger and helped establish the National Commission on AIDS; in
23 addition, he secured passage of bills providing fresh produce to
24 low-income families and medical clinics and food to the homeless;

1 he also served as chair of the Black Caucus, and he won praise from
2 the State Department for his successful efforts in arranging the
3 release of four Americans imprisoned in Cuba; tragically, he lost
4 his life in a plane crash in 1989, while leading a relief mission to
5 a refugee camp in Ethiopia; his contributions have since continued
6 to resonate, and over the years, a number of facilities and
7 initiatives have been renamed in his honor, among them a federal
8 building in Houston, the Texas Commission on Environmental
9 Quality's Internship Program, and the Mickey Leland College
10 Preparatory Academy for Young Men; moreover, the Barbara
11 Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern
12 University celebrates the contributions of these two
13 groundbreaking representatives from the 18th Congressional
14 District; and

15 WHEREAS, Mickey Leland demonstrated a tremendous commitment
16 to his fellow Texans and to vulnerable people the world over, and
17 his legacy remains a source of inspiration to all; now, therefore,
18 be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
20 Legislature hereby commemorate the 46th anniversary of Mickey
21 Leland being sworn in as a member of the Texas House of
22 Representatives.