

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 220

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

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

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

WHEREAS, In 1978, following three terms in the Texas Legislature, Congressman Leland was elected to the United States House of Representatives; he founded the House Select Committee on Hunger and helped establish the National Commission on AIDS; in addition, he secured passage of bills providing fresh produce to low-income families and medical clinics and food to the homeless; he also served as chair of the Black Caucus, and he won praise from the State Department for his successful efforts in arranging the

release of four Americans imprisoned in Cuba; tragically, he lost his life in a plane crash in 1989, while leading a relief mission to a refugee camp in Ethiopia; his contributions have since continued to resonate, and over the years, a number of facilities and initiatives have been renamed in his honor, among them a federal building in Houston, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Internship Program, and the Mickey Leland College Preparatory Academy for Young Men; moreover, the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University celebrates the contributions of these two groundbreaking representatives from the 18th Congressional District; and

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

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

Miles

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 19, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate