

By: González of El Paso

H.R. No. 251

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A remarkable life dedicated to the rights of
2 transgender people drew to a close with the death of Monica Katrice
3 Roberts of Houston on October 5, 2020, at the age of 58; and

4 WHEREAS, Monica Roberts was born in Houston on May 4, 1962, to
5 Mable and Rick Roberts; a 1980 graduate of Jesse H. Jones High
6 School, she went on to earn her bachelor's degree from the
7 University of Houston; early in her career, she lived in
8 Louisville, Kentucky, and worked a variety of jobs before returning
9 to Houston; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2004, Ms. Roberts began writing a newspaper
11 column called TransGriot, and in 2006, she moved the column to the
12 Internet, where it became a pioneering and influential blog,
13 telling the stories of the transgender community at a time when they
14 were ignored, dismissed, and misrepresented by mainstream media;
15 the blog chronicled the lives and history of Black transpeople and
16 reported on violence faced by the trans community, especially trans
17 women of color; she also fought the misgendering of trans murder
18 victims in police and news reports, and she regularly wrote for
19 *Ebony.com*, *HuffPost*, *The Advocate*, and other publications; and

20 WHEREAS, In addition to her work as a journalist, Ms. Roberts
21 cofounded the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition in 1999 and
22 served as the coalition's lobby chair from 1999 to 2002, and she
23 served on the board of the Fairness Campaign in Louisville and
24 organized the Transsistahs-Transbrothas Conference in that city

1 for two consecutive years; for two decades, she also regularly
2 advocated at the Texas Capitol in Austin for the rights of LGBTQIA+
3 people; and

4 WHEREAS, *TransGriot* was honored as outstanding blog at the
5 GLAAD Media Awards in 2018 and 2021, and Ms. Roberts was the first
6 Texas African American to win the IFGE Trinity Award and the first
7 openly trans African American to receive the Virginia Prince
8 Transgender Pioneer Award from Fantasia Fair; her many other awards
9 included a 2016 Special Recognition Award from GLAAD, the Robert
10 Coles Call of Service Award from the Phillips Brooks House
11 Association, the John Walzel Equality Award from the Human Rights
12 Campaign, and the Susan J. Hyde Award for Longevity in the Movement
13 from the National LGBTQ Task Force; and

14 WHEREAS, A pioneering Black trans woman of great vision,
15 determination, and courage, Monica Roberts was a heroic champion
16 for her community, and those she has left behind will forever find
17 inspiration in all that she achieved; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
19 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
20 of Monica Katrice Roberts and extend heartfelt sympathy to the
21 members of her family: to her mother, Mable Roberts; to her
22 siblings, Kevin, Kecia, and Latoya Roberts; to her dear friend, Dee
23 Dee Watters; and to her other relatives and many friends and
24 admirers across the Lone Star State and beyond; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Monica

H.R. No. 251

1 Roberts.