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By:  Clardy H.R. No. 195

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The faculty and students of Stephen F. Austin State University lost a beloved colleague and mentor with the death of Dr. Ken Collier on June 14, 2020, at the age of 60; and

WHEREAS, The son of Joe and Betty Lyn Collier, Ken Collier was born on July 7, 1959; he graduated from Longview High School and went on to attend Kilgore College and then The University of Texas at Austin, where he earned a bachelor's degree in government in 1981 and a Ph.D. in government in 1988; and

WHEREAS, After teaching at the University of Kansas, where he also managed the athletic department's website, Dr. Collier joined the faculty of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches in 1999; a well-respected scholar, he was the author of two books, *Between the Branches: The White House Office of Legislative Affairs* and *Speechwriting in the Institutionalized Presidency*, and the coauthor of *Lone Star Politics: Tradition and Transformation in Texas*, one of the leading textbooks on Texas politics; in addition, he was the author or coauthor of some 15 peer-reviewed articles in important academic journals; and

WHEREAS, A passionate advocate for his students, Dr. Collier earned the SFASU Teaching Excellence Award in 2006; he supervised the Texas Legislative Internship Program, which has placed 35 students over the years in legislative internships and helped launch several careers in public service, and in his name, SFASU has set up an endowment to assist in funding the program going forward; he also served on numerous committees for the Department of Government, the College of Liberal and Applied Arts, and the university at large; moreover, he was Faculty Senate chair from 2010 to 2011, and from 2013 until his death, he was the program coordinator for the political science program; and

WHEREAS, A regular presence at all Lumberjack games, Dr. Collier was an enthusiastic supporter of the athletic program, building strong relationships with many of the student athletes and working to improve the athletic department's educational efforts and mission; during his tenure as Faculty Athletic Representative, he helped raise the department's average GPA to a record high of 3.22; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Collier shared a rewarding marriage with his wife, Sandy Benavides Collier, that spanned more than three decades, and he took great pride in their daughter, Nicole; and

WHEREAS, A loving family man and an admired scholar and teacher, Ken Collier lived a rich and purposeful life, and memories of his enthusiasm, dry wit, and dedication to service remain to comfort and inspire those he leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Ken Collier and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and many 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 Ken Collier.