H.R. No. 1019

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Admired attorney Derek Alden Howard of Austin passed away on August 1, 2020, at the age of 72, bringing a great loss to all who shared in his love and friendship; and

WHEREAS, The son of Ernest and Betty Howard, Derek Howard was born in Austin on January 3, 1948, and grew up with three siblings, Greg, Sherry, and Mark; he completed his bachelor's degree in zoology at The University of Texas at Austin, and after selling "Impeach Nixon" bumper stickers to buy his first hot air balloon, he opened the Southwestern Balloon School and helped found the Texas Hot Air Balloon Race; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the well-being of others, Mr. Howard was also involved in the founding of the Austin Rape Crisis Center and volunteered on the overnight hotline, as well as for the Austin Tenants Council; he marched in antiwar protests and took legal action against the police brutality he experienced, which led him to enroll at St. Mary's University School of Law; following graduation, he became a partner in Kreisner & Howard and later established his own firm, Howard & Kobelan; his practice focused on workers' rights, including discrimination and retaliation claims, and he was a fierce David when going up against a Goliath for his clients; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard met his wife, future state representative Donna Howard, while working on a political campaign in 1976; they married four years later and became the parents of three children, Blake, Logan, and Shane; eventually, he knew the joy of becoming "Boppie" to his treasured grandchildren; active in the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, he served on boards and fostered the growth of the UBarU Camp & Retreat Center; and

WHEREAS, In leisure hours, Mr. Howard's way with words made him a serial Scrabble champion and served him well during passionate discussions with family and friends; disdaining recipes, he enjoyed experimenting in the kitchen and was famous for his chili; he loved being in the water, whether in the pool he designed, a lake, or a creek, and he rescued a host of turtles, salamanders, snakes, and other creatures; his beloved dog, Marquis de Sade Fernando de la Cruz, was a constant companion; and

WHEREAS, Derek Howard made a positive difference in many lives through his skilled advocacy, and although he is deeply missed by those he left behind, they will forever cherish their memories of his warmth, wit, and compassion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Derek Alden Howard and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; 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 Derek Howard.

Geren

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1019 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 8, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chief Clerk of the House