

By: Geren

H.R. No. 1019

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Howard met his wife, future state
23 representative Donna Howard, while working on a political campaign
24 in 1976; they married four years later and became the parents of

1 three children, Blake, Logan, and Shane; eventually, he knew the
2 joy of becoming "Boppie" to his treasured grandchildren; active in
3 the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, he served on
4 boards and fostered the growth of the UBarU Camp & Retreat Center;
5 and

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Derek Alden Howard and
20 extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Derek
25 Howard.