

By: Swanson

H.R. No. 1358

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost an admired advocate for  
2 people with disabilities with the passing of Ruth Lorena Mason of  
3 Houston on January 23, 2020, at the age of 53; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in the Bayou City on January 31, 1966, the  
5 former Ruth DeJohn was known to family and close friends as "Lore";  
6 she dedicated herself to improving the lives of children and adults  
7 with disabilities, working tirelessly for better access to  
8 education, health care, and employment support; during her career,  
9 she was employed by Disability Rights Texas, and she went on to  
10 share her expertise through leadership roles with numerous other  
11 agencies and organizations, including the Texas Council for  
12 Developmental Disabilities, Texas Parent to Parent, the Arc of  
13 Texas, the Down Syndrome Association of Houston, and the Harris  
14 Center; among other contributions, she frequently provided  
15 valuable testimony at legislative hearings on disability issues;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Mason's work was informed by her own battle with  
18 ALS; with the assistance of ocular technology, she was able to  
19 communicate clearly using just her eyes, and she amazed her doctors  
20 and other medical staff with her comprehensive knowledge of the  
21 disease; she continued to champion the interests of people with  
22 disabilities as her illness progressed; and

23 WHEREAS, A woman of strong faith, Ms. Mason served on the  
24 worship ministry team at her church, and she was a member of the

1 choir and band; she was also a leader of the children's choir, a  
2 teacher in Mom's Day Out, and a regular participant in women's Bible  
3 studies; moreover, she was instrumental in ministering to children  
4 with disabilities and their families; in all her endeavors, she was  
5 supported by the love and encouragement of her husband of 29 years,  
6 Michael Mason, and her sons, William and Samuel; she is also  
7 survived by her mother, Mary Ruth Cooper, and her siblings, Dave  
8 DeJohn and Alice Janz; and

9       WHEREAS, Ruth Mason made a lasting, positive difference in  
10 the lives of innumerable people through her unceasing endeavors in  
11 behalf of people with disabilities, and although she is deeply  
12 missed by those she left behind, they will forever treasure their  
13 memories of her compassion, courage, and determination; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Ruth Lorena Mason and  
17 extend sincere condolences to all who mourn her passing; and, be it  
18 further

19       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ruth Mason.