

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 502

In Memory
of
Alan Russell Erwin

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Alan Russell Erwin, who died November 12, 2019, at the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, An esteemed member of the Austin community, Alan Erwin had a rewarding life of service and was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather; he was a distinguished veteran, an esteemed journalist and author, a respected statesman, and a faithful Christian servant; and

WHEREAS, Alan Erwin was born on September 4, 1944, in Greenville, Texas; he began cultivating his writing skills as a high school student working as a weekly reporter and columnist for the *Baytown Sun*, and he went on to earn a bachelor of arts degree in communications from The University of Texas at Austin; he married Gay Taylor in December of 1967, and three weeks later, he joined the United States Navy; after graduating from Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island, he was stationed aboard the USS *Lexington* to serve as the ship's communications and public affairs officer; in 1969, he was assigned to serve in Vietnam as an advisor to the Vietnamese Navy's Swift Boat division; and

WHEREAS, Alan worked as a reporter, editor, and publisher for such leading newspapers as the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and the *New York Times*, and he served as the capitol correspondent for the Hartman newspaper group; he accomplished his dream of writing a great American novel in 1984, when he published *The Power Exchange*; and

WHEREAS, Alan's political career began with his service as chief of staff for Congressman Bob Casey from Houston; he served as an advisor and a speech writer for Governor Dolph Briscoe, and in 1972, the governor appointed him to the Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington, D.C.; he was one of the three commissioners first appointed to the Texas Public Utility Commission, and after he left state government, he served as senior vice president and manager of the Houston division of Hill and Knowlton Public Relations; he then established his own consulting firm, Erwin and Associates; and

WHEREAS, Alan and Gay shared 51 years of marriage, and they were longtime members of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Austin; they were blessed with three sons, Andy, Josh, and Will Erwin, and their seven grandchildren enriched his life immeasurably; and

WHEREAS, Alan remained committed to the United States Navy and his fellow veterans throughout his life, and he was proud to have helped raise \$1.5 million in donations to commission the

Vietnam Veterans Monument currently standing on the grounds of the Texas Capitol; he was a true Texas gentleman and a beloved member of his community, and he leaves behind memories that will long be cherished by all who were privileged to share in his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Alan Russell Erwin; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Alan Erwin.

Eckhardt

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2021, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate