

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 517

In Memory
of
Keith Wade

WHEREAS, The passing of Keith Watson Wade on May 21, 2020, at the age of 65, concluded a life deeply dedicated to the betterment of Houston; and

WHEREAS, Born on January 24, 1955, Keith Wade was the son of Hilroy Wade Sr. and Emily Watson Wade; he grew up during the era of segregation and attended El Campo High School, where he was the first African American president of the student body; he became involved in the social justice movement through the mentorship of his uncle, the Reverend L. V. Winfield, president of the Houston NAACP, and served as a youth organizer; in 1977, he was elected as the first African American president of the University of Houston Student Government Association, and following his graduation with a degree in political science, he interned in the office of U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen; he went on to serve as a valued aide to Congressman Mickey Leland, and he marched with Cesar Chavez, protested against apartheid, and held the post of deputy state director for President Jimmy Carter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wade's steadfast commitment to labor, civil and voting rights, and the disadvantaged led to his involvement and leadership with numerous organizations, and he was an effective coalition builder and astute consultant on political campaigns at all levels; in 1991, he managed State Representative Garnet Coleman's first successful legislative race; he later played a key role in the 2015 and 2019 campaigns of his longtime friend, Houston mayor Sylvester Turner; calm, quiet, and keenly focused on responsiveness to the public, he was a special adviser to both Mayor Turner and his predecessor, Mayor Annise Parker; he was a cofounder of the Mickey Leland Kibbutzim Internship, which gives high school students exposure to international policy, and he served on its board and the boards of the Hermann Park Conservancy, the Houston Area Women's Center, and the Texans Together Education Fund; devoted to his alma mater, he sat on the advisory board of the UH Hobby School of Public Affairs and mentored students in its Civic Houston Interns, Leland Fellows, and Hobby Fellows programs; and

WHEREAS, Through his unceasing endeavors, Keith Wade made a lasting, positive difference in Houston while helping to expand opportunities for the next generation of leaders, and those he left behind will treasure their memories of his great kindness, wisdom, and integrity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Keith Watson Wade and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to Gisele Adams and Sakina Lanig; to his children, Keata S. Wade, Emani B. Wade, and Kamal G. Lanig-Wade; and to his many other relatives, friends, and colleagues; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Keith Wade.

Miles

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 31, 2021, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate