

By: Turner

H.R. No. 18

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life lived with joy and purpose drew to a close
2 with the passing of renowned civil and voting rights attorney
3 Joseph Gerald Hebert on September 7, 2023, at the age of 74; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Joseph Gerald Laurie Hebert and Adeline
5 Agnes Whitehead Hebert, Gerry Hebert was born in Worcester,
6 Massachusetts, on February 13, 1949; he graduated from Stonehill
7 College and Suffolk University Law School and joined the Civil
8 Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in 1973; during a
9 tenure spanning two decades, he served as lead attorney or chief
10 trial counsel in hundreds of cases, among them several decided by
11 the U.S. Supreme Court; he received myriad commendations, including
12 an award for his work on the enormously high-profile Boston school
13 desegregation case; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Hebert continued his efforts in the private
15 sector with the Legal Defense Fund and Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale
16 and Dorr, partnering to successfully challenge racially
17 discriminatory voting ID laws in Texas; in 2004, he began serving as
18 executive director of the Campaign Legal Center; while an adjunct
19 professor at Georgetown University Law Center, he developed a
20 thriving intern program for CLC; he also taught at the University of
21 Virginia, American University, and New York Law School, and he was
22 named a Wasserstein Fellow at Harvard Law School and a Mentor in
23 Residence at Yale Law School; committed to educating the next
24 generation of litigators, he spearheaded the CLC drive to establish

1 the Voting Rights Institute, a partnership with the American
2 Constitution Society and Georgetown Law; he was of great assistance
3 to the Lone Star Project in Texas as well; and

4 WHEREAS, While dedicating his career to the pursuit of
5 justice, Mr. Hebert was also very active in his church and his
6 community in Alexandria, Virginia, coaching youth soccer and
7 serving as president of the PTA and the charitable organization
8 ALIVE!; he was a devoted husband to his wife of 37 years, Victoria,
9 and very engaged in the lives of his five children, Christy, Greta,
10 Brooke, Josh, and Marlea, and his 10 grandchildren, Gunter, Annika,
11 Amelie, Harper, Sadie, Bailey, Brighid, Adrian, Tyler, and Abe; and

12 WHEREAS, Gerry Hebert was a fierce, brilliant champion of
13 democracy and equal rights for all, especially the historically
14 disenfranchised, and his family and friends will forever treasure
15 their memories of his generosity, passion, and wonderful sense of
16 humor; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
18 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
19 Joseph Gerald Hebert and extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn
20 his passing; and, be it further

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