

By: Phelan

H.R. No. 143

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the sorrow felt at
2 the passing of Mary Grace Baker of Beaumont, who was tragically lost
3 in the July 4, 2025, flooding in Kerr County; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Katie O'Neill Baker and Clarke
5 Baker, Mary Grace Baker was born in Beaumont on April 10, 2017, and
6 she was eight years old at the time of her passing; she enjoyed an
7 extremely close bond with her younger brother, Jeb, and included
8 him in every activity; surrounded by the love of family, she spent
9 many happy hours in the company of her cousins, Molly, Will, Sonny,
10 Laurel, and Robby, who was often taken to be her twin; she adored
11 her parents and grandparents, and her favorite activities included
12 playing mahjong with her mother, going to the West End Little League
13 opening day with her father, golfing with PatPat, visiting the spa
14 with Shesha, and playing tickle monster with Popsie; she was
15 especially devoted to her grandmother Nana, who hosted countless
16 playdates and sleepovers and imparted valuable lessons of religious
17 faith; Mary Grace received her First Holy Communion at St. Jude
18 Thaddeus Catholic Church; and

19 WHEREAS, Through the years, Mary Grace attended Calder
20 Baptist nursery, Trinity Weekday Ministries, and St. Anne Catholic
21 School, where she was named "principal of the day"; magnanimous in
22 this role, she granted such favors as extra recess and free
23 popsicles; moreover, she was honored with the school's
24 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for her academic excellence and for

1 demonstrating Catholic principles; open-hearted, funny, and
2 affectionate, she administered such enthusiastic hugs that
3 remaining upright could prove a challenge; she studied dance and
4 piano, played baseball and tennis, and swam, and she experienced
5 everything from skiing in Montana to hula dancing in Hawaii on
6 family trips; creative from an early age, she crafted trinkets for
7 anyone she suspected might be feeling down, and she was thrilled to
8 portray an angel in the Beaumont Civic Ballet's production of *The*
9 *Nutcracker*; and

10 WHEREAS, Although her days were far too few, the joy and
11 radiance with which Mary Grace Baker lived her life will remain a
12 lasting source of inspiration to all who were privileged to know
13 her; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
15 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
16 Mary Grace Baker and extend sincere condolences to the members of
17 her family: to her parents, Katie and Clarke Baker; to her brother,
18 John Edward "Jeb" Baker; to her grandparents, Darlene and Pat
19 O'Neill and Alisha and Mike Baker; to her great-grandmother, Nancy
20 Baker; and to her other relatives and many friends; and, be it
21 further

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