

By: Cole

H.R. No. 26

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of Ara La'Shon Duke suffered
2 an immeasurable loss with her death on June 15, 2024, at the age of
3 54; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Marsha Garnett-Halmon and Carl
5 Walker, Ara Duke was born on October 26, 1969, in Dallas; she shared
6 in the companionship of three siblings, Ismail Rashid-Walker, Carla
7 Walker, and Brandon Halmon, and her family also included her
8 stepparents, Blanche Walker and Melvin Halmon; she attended Justin
9 F. Kimball High School, where she was a drill team lieutenant, and
10 after graduating in 1988, she continued her education at Texas A&M
11 University and earned a bachelor's degree in organizational
12 management from Ashford University; and

13 WHEREAS, In the course of a successful career, Mrs. Duke
14 worked for the SouthWest Water Company and Lonestar Social
15 Services; she subsequently pursued her passion for education,
16 serving as the director of the First Steps Discovery Learning
17 Center and as a teacher and leader at IDEA Rundberg; she took an
18 active role in her community through her involvement with NPH USA,
19 Black Women in Business, and Mission Accomplished, among other
20 organizations; a woman of faith, she was a member of the
21 congregation at Restoration Christian Ministry International
22 Church and served in the women's, children's, and intercessory
23 prayer ministries; and

24 WHEREAS, She married the love of her life, Christopher Duke,

1 in 2002, and the couple became the proud parents of a daughter,
2 Alena, the following year; in her leisure hours, Mrs. Duke enjoyed
3 traveling, reading, trying out new restaurants, and watching Black
4 cinema and her favorite television franchise, *Star Trek*; she was
5 also a lifelong fan of the Dallas Cowboys; and

6 WHEREAS, Admired for her warmth, her generosity of spirit,
7 and her sparkling personality, Ara Duke brightened the world for
8 all who knew her, and they will forever hold her close in their
9 hearts; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Ara La'Shon Duke and
12 extend heartfelt sympathy to all who mourn her passing; and, be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ara Duke.