

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Houston lost a tireless champion of
2 opportunity and positive change with the passing of Congressman
3 Sylvester Turner on March 5, 2025, at the age of 70; and

4 WHEREAS, A former mayor of the city and a longtime member of
5 the Texas Legislature, Sylvester Turner was born in Houston on
6 September 27, 1954, and grew up with eight siblings in a two-bedroom
7 house in the Acres Homes neighborhood; while watching the
8 Kennedy-Nixon debates with his family as a small boy, he resolved to
9 become a lawyer and public servant, beginning his lifelong
10 commitment to helping others; his father, a commercial painter,
11 died when he was just 13, and his mother continued to support the
12 family as a housekeeper at the Rice Hotel; although neither of his
13 parents received a diploma, he became student body president and
14 valedictorian at Klein High School, and he went on to graduate from
15 the University of Houston and Harvard Law School; and

16 WHEREAS, Congressman Turner began his career as a trial
17 lawyer with the Fulbright & Jaworski firm and later cofounded
18 Barnes & Turner, a practice focused on commercial law and personal
19 injury litigation; in addition, he taught at the Texas Southern
20 University Thurgood Marshall School of Law, at the South Texas
21 College of Law, and in the University of Houston Law School
22 continuing legal education program; and

23 WHEREAS, First elected to the Texas House of Representatives
24 in 1988, Congressman Turner was reelected 13 times and served three

1 terms as speaker pro tempore; he helped shape fiscal policy during
2 more than two decades on the House Appropriations Committee and
3 multiple terms as chair of its Subcommittee on Criminal Justice;
4 moreover, he distinguished himself in his duties as a member of the
5 Legislative Budget Board and as chair of the Texas Legislative
6 Black Caucus and the Greater Houston Area Legislative Delegation;
7 known for his eloquence and his ability to work across the aisle, he
8 secured passage of such important legislation as a 2007 children's
9 health insurance measure; his passion for health care, education,
10 human services, consumer rights, and juvenile justice earned him
11 recognition as "the conscience of the House"; and

12 WHEREAS, Congressman Turner was elected to the first of two
13 terms as Houston mayor in 2015; he guided the city through a period
14 of unprecedented challenges, among them Hurricane Harvey and six
15 other federally declared disasters, as well as the COVID-19
16 pandemic; early in his tenure, he strengthened finances by crafting
17 a solution for the mounting pension debt crisis; he also promoted
18 sustainability, bolstering the city's status as the energy capital
19 of the world; addressing violent crime and mental health, he
20 launched the One Safe Houston initiative, and other important
21 programs included Hire Houston Youth, One Clean Houston, and
22 Complete Communities, which fostered economic advancement through
23 revitalization of underserved areas; in addition to his other
24 responsibilities, he provided national leadership in urban policy
25 as chair of the Global Resilient Cities Network, Climate Mayors,
26 and the African American Mayors Association, and he was a trustee of
27 the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2024, citizens elected him to Congress to
2 represent the historically significant 18th Congressional
3 District, and he served as a member of the Homeland Security and the
4 Science, Space, and Technology Committees; during his time in
5 office, he maintained the incomparable work ethic and whirlwind
6 pace that defined his entire career, devoting himself to the
7 lawmaking process, staying in close touch with constituents, and
8 participating in numerous neighborhood and community-wide events
9 in Houston; he also set aside time to attend the Church Without
10 Walls, where he worshipped for well over three decades, and he
11 rarely missed a Sunday service, even while undergoing cancer
12 treatment; he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,
13 Incorporated, and remained a proud resident of the Acres Homes
14 community where he grew up; and

15 WHEREAS, Intent on fulfilling his mission until the very
16 last, Sylvester Turner made an enduring, positive difference in the
17 lives of millions of Texans through his transformative public
18 service, and although his loss is deeply felt, his extraordinary
19 contributions will continue to resonate in the years to come; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable
23 Sylvester Turner and extend sincere condolences to the members of
24 his family: to his daughter, Ashley Turner Captain, and her
25 husband, Jimmie; to his grandson, Jameson Captain; to his other
26 relatives and a host of friends and colleagues; and to all who mourn
27 his passing; and, be it further

H.R. No. 525

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of
4 Congressman Turner.

Thompson
Y. Davis of Dallas
Dutton
Lalani

Burrows	Guerra	Morales Shaw
Alders	Guillen	Morgan
Allen	Harless	Muñoz
Anchía	Harris	Noble
Ashby	Harris Davila	Olcott
Barry	Harrison	Oliverson
Bell of Kaufman	Hayes	Ordaz
Bell of Montgomery	Hefner	Orr
Bernal	Hernandez	Patterson
Bhojani	Hickland	Paul
Bonnen	Hinojosa	Perez of El Paso
Bowers	Holt	Perez of Harris
Bryant	Hopper	Phelan
Buckley	Howard	Pierson
Bucy	Hull	Plesa
Bumgarner	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Cain	Johnson	Richardson
Campos	Jones of Dallas	Rodríguez Ramos
Canales	Jones of Harris	Romero
Capriglione	Kerwin	Rose
Cole	King	Rosenthal
Collier	Kitzman	Schatzline
Cook	LaHood	Schofield
Cortez	Lalani	Schoolcraft
Craddick	Lambert	Shaheen
Cunningham	Landgraf	Shofner
Curry	Leach	Simmons
Darby	Leo Wilson	Slawson
A. Davis of Dallas	Little	Smithee
Y. Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Spiller
Dean	Lopez of Bexar	Swanson
DeAyala	Lopez of Cameron	Talarico
Dorazio	Louderback	Tepper
Dutton	Lowe	Thompson
Dyson	Lozano	Tinderholt
Fairly	Lujan	Toth
Flores	Luther	Troxclair
Frank	Manuel	Turner
Gámez	Martinez	VanDeaver
Garcia of Bexar	Martinez Fischer	Vasut
Garcia of Dallas	McLaughlin	Villalobos
Garcia Hernandez	McQueeney	Virdell
Gates	Metcalf	Vo
Gerdes	Meyer	Walle
Geren	Meza	Ward Johnson
Gervin-Hawkins	Money	Wharton
González of Dallas	Moody	Wilson
González of El Paso	Morales of Harris	Wu
Goodwin	Morales of Maverick	Zwiener

H.R. No. 525

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 525 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 13, 2025.

Chief Clerk of the House