

By: Howard

H.R. No. 785

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a trailblazing public servant drew to a
2 close with the passing of former Austin mayor and Texas comptroller
3 Carole Keeton on March 26, 2025, at the age of 85; and

4 WHEREAS, A native Austinite, Carole Keeton was born in 1939
5 to Page Keeton, a dean of The University of Texas School of Law, and
6 Madge Keeton; she studied government at UT Austin, and after
7 graduating in 1961, she wed attorney Barr McClellan and became the
8 mother of four sons, Brad, Scott, Mark, and Dudley; she made her
9 first foray into politics as a member of the Austin Independent
10 School District Board of Trustees in 1972; during her tenure, she
11 championed efforts to improve outcomes for minority students, and
12 she was unanimously elected to preside over the board in 1976; and

13 WHEREAS, The following year, Ms. Keeton became the first
14 female mayor in Austin's history and ultimately set a new precedent
15 for the office by serving three successive terms; she led the city
16 until 1983, when Governor Mark White appointed her to the State
17 Board of Insurance, and she was the first woman to fill that role as
18 well; and

19 WHEREAS, Turning her attention to statewide elective office,
20 Ms. Keeton won a seat on the Texas Railroad Commission in 1986, and
21 she made history once again when she became the first woman to be
22 elected state comptroller, an office she held for two terms, from
23 1999 to 2007; in these and other races, she appealed to voters with
24 her down-to-earth charm, and she later adopted the slogan "one

1 tough grandma" during her 2006 gubernatorial campaign; her
2 energetic personality made her a force to be reckoned with, and she
3 was renowned for her memorable aphorisms and a well-honed sense of
4 humor that could make a room erupt in laughter; and

5 WHEREAS, Even after her career as an elected official
6 concluded, Ms. Keeton remained politically active; in 2012, her
7 organization Austinites For Action helped secure passage of a
8 proposition to improve access to health care in Travis County; she
9 took pride in seeing her sons Scott and Mark follow in her footsteps
10 in public service by holding prominent positions in the
11 administration of President George W. Bush, and in her later years,
12 she enjoyed watching her cherished family grow to include nine
13 grandchildren; and

14 WHEREAS, Guided by a steadfast concern for the needs of
15 people from all walks of life, Carole Keeton devoted herself
16 tirelessly to the betterment of her community and state, and she
17 leaves behind a legacy that will long be treasured by those who held
18 her dear; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Carole Keeton and
21 extend deepest sympathy to all who mourn her passing; and, be it
22 further

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