

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 848

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life dedicated to the pursuit of social justice
2 and human rights drew to a close with the passing of Daniel Chris
3 Graney of San Antonio on July 11, 2024, at the age of 75; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on May 16, 1949, in Norfolk, Nebraska, Dan
5 Graney spent part of his youth in foster care before being adopted
6 by a Lutheran minister and his wife at age 18; after graduating from
7 St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas, he received his
8 undergraduate degree from Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne,
9 Indiana, and his master of divinity degree from Christ
10 Seminary-Seminex; ordained as a Lutheran minister, he began his
11 clerical career serving San Francisco's Mission District Hispanic
12 community; and

13 WHEREAS, While undertaking his ministerial studies,
14 Mr. Graney met his first love, a Franciscan priest named Roberto
15 Flores; in 1977, the pair moved to Houston, where Mr. Graney served
16 as a minister and paralegal for undocumented immigrants; he was
17 elected as a bishop of the Texas Province of the Southwest Regional
18 Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, but he was forced to resign
19 after church officials learned about his relationship; pivoting to
20 a career in law, he graduated as valedictorian of his class at Texas
21 Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1987, and
22 he went on to relocate his practice, which primarily focused on
23 immigration law, to San Antonio in 1992; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Graney and Mr. Flores shared 35 years together

1 before they were able to legally marry in Vermont on October 15,
2 2009; after Mr. Flores passed away, Mr. Graney was fortunate enough
3 to find love again, and on June 9, 2017, he wed Rolando Jaimes
4 Mesco, who served as his devoted caregiver throughout his medical
5 challenges; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite retiring from his work as an attorney due to
7 health issues in 1993, Mr. Graney continued to make an impact
8 through his involvement with San Antonio's LGBT community; he
9 served as cofounder of the Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio, as
10 chair of the Bexar County Democratic Party, and as president of the
11 Stonewall Democratic Caucus for the 2008 Texas Democratic Party
12 Convention; additionally, as co-chair of the Community Alliance for
13 a United San Antonio, he helped secure the historic passage of a
14 citywide nondiscrimination ordinance in 2013; and

15 WHEREAS, Dan Graney touched countless lives through his
16 selfless service and his unwavering commitment to the rights of the
17 marginalized, and he leaves behind a legacy that will long be
18 remembered; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Daniel Chris Graney
21 and extend deepest condolences to all those who mourn his passing;
22 and, be it further

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