

By: Howard

H.R. No. 1476

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Mark James Hanna of Austin on May 23, 2025, at the age of
3 77; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on Walker Air Force Base in Roswell, New
5 Mexico, on September 24, 1947, Mark Hanna was the son of Colonel
6 Keith C. Hanna and Bettye Bennett Hanna; he grew up with a sister,
7 Jill, and lived in a number of states before his father's career
8 brought the family to Austin; after graduating from Austin High
9 School, where he formed many lasting friendships, he earned his
10 bachelor's and law degrees from The University of Texas at Austin;
11 answering his nation's call to duty, he served as an airborne combat
12 medic in the U.S. Army; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Hanna focused his distinguished legal career on
14 public policy; he advocated fiercely and successfully for
15 legislation that advanced such fields as real estate, dentistry,
16 surveying, speech therapy, and audiology, benefiting his clients
17 and their patients alike; for nearly three decades, he represented
18 the Texas Nurses Association, furthering their goals of reducing
19 the nursing shortage and improving practice conditions while
20 helping establish a legal framework on which the Legislature
21 continues to build; a zealous advocate and true statesman, he made
22 friends on both sides of the aisle; he avoided controversy whenever
23 possible, choosing to negotiate a win-win solution for all; always
24 impeccably attired with every hair in place as he roamed the Capitol

1 halls and committee meetings, he was renowned for his warm smile and
2 his calm and professional demeanor that was flavored with a dash of
3 humor and subtle sarcasm; he was always viewed with the highest
4 respect by the individuals he worked with and the organizations he
5 represented; in turn, he loved the camaraderie that brought worthy
6 adversaries together after long days and nights of legislative
7 work, and he relished his memories of boisterous sine die
8 celebrations; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1980, Mr. Hanna married the former Deborah
10 Shelton, and they became the parents of a son, Mark Hanna Jr.; he
11 was also the father of Todd and Trent Hanna, and he eventually knew
12 the joy of welcoming a granddaughter, Catherine, into his treasured
13 family; an Eagle Scout and avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed horseback
14 riding, hiking, boating, fishing, duck hunting, and most of all,
15 working his beloved yellow British labs, Ace, Jock, and Rip, at
16 Aransas Bay; he drove a ski boat skillfully, to the delight of the
17 numerous children he pulled on boards, tubes, and skis, up and down
18 Lake Austin; a loyal Longhorn, he was an especially ardent fan of
19 the football team; and

20 WHEREAS, Thoughtful, kind, and gentlemanly, Mark Hanna
21 brightened the world for innumerable people, and they will forever
22 hold him close in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mark James Hanna and
25 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
26 wife, Debbie Hanna; to his sons, Mark Hanna Jr., Todd Hanna, and
27 Trent Hanna; to his granddaughter, Catherine Quail Hanna; to his

H.R. No. 1476

1 niece, Sommer Pruitt; to his close friend and legal assistant of 38
2 years, Denese Mosley; and to his many other relatives and host of
3 friends; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mark Hanna.