

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 478

In Memory
of
Carlton Carl

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Carlton Carl, who died March 25, 2025, at the age of 79; and

WHEREAS, An exemplary citizen and Native Texan, Carlton Carl was born in Houston on September 20, 1945; he developed a passion for journalism and a lifelong friendship with the famed writer Molly Ivins from a young age, and he attended Columbia University, where he earned a bachelor's degree and also a master's degree from its prestigious journalism school; and

WHEREAS, Carlton embarked on a career in politics as an intern in the Texas Legislature, and he went on to become the press secretary for Governor Preston Smith and to run political campaigns for such Texas legends as Price Daniel Jr., Bob Bullock, and Ann Richards; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, he moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as press secretary for United States House Representative John Bryant of the Dallas area, and he later became a formidable lobbyist and champion for consumers' and workers' rights during his tenure as vice president of communications, policy, and strategy with the Association of Trial Lawyers of America; and

WHEREAS, Carlton returned to his home state after purchasing many parcels of land comprising the small town of Martindale in the early 2000s; with the help of friends, family, area residents, and numerous craftspeople, he achieved his vision of revitalizing the town into a charming home for many local businesses and friendly neighbors; while managing his

community real estate venture, he also returned to the journalism profession and served for two years as chief executive officer and publisher of the *Texas Observer* before transitioning to serve on the board of the magazine's parent organization and as a proofreader, a role which he fulfilled until his passing; and

WHEREAS, Carlton was a passionate advocate, a generous philanthropist, and a voracious reader and history enthusiast who cherished time spent with his friends and family, and he found great reward in supporting them in their many interests and pursuits; and

WHEREAS, A treasured Texan and an esteemed journalist, Carlton inspired countless individuals through his tireless commitment to his activism and his community, and he will long be remembered with admiration and appreciation by all who were privileged to share in his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Carlton Carl; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carlton Carl.

Eckhardt

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on June 1, 2025, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate