

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 710

In Memory
of
Martin Marty

WHEREAS, Renowned theologian and religious historian Martin E. Marty passed away on February 25, 2025, at the age of 97; and

WHEREAS, The son of Emil and Anne Louise Marty, Martin Emil Marty was born in West Point, Nebraska, on February 5, 1928; he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in divinity from Concordia Seminary, a master of sacred theology degree from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and a doctoral degree from the University of Chicago; ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, he served as a pastor in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Illinois before joining the faculty of the University of Chicago Divinity School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marty's academic career was marked by both rigorous inquiry and extensive outreach to a wider audience; in scores of books and thousands of articles and lectures, he championed the concept of public theology, exploring the intersections of faith, culture, and society; *Time* magazine characterized him as "the most influential living interpreter of religion in the U.S."; and

WHEREAS, Known for his wit and tremendous kindness, as well as his towering intellect, Dr. Marty was a mentor to countless students; with one of his protégés, he codirected a milestone in religious scholarship, the six-year Fundamentalism Project, which examined the role of conservative religious movements around the world; its five volumes of case studies and analytical essays became the standard works in comparative political religion; among myriad accolades, he received the National Humanities Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal of the Association of Theological Schools, and 80 honorary doctorates; the American Academy of Religion established the Martin

E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion, and upon his retirement in 1998, the University of Chicago Divinity School renamed the research center he founded as the Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion; as the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of the History of Modern Christianity, he continued to write a weekly column for the Marty Center's newsletter and speak to the public and the media; and

WHEREAS, Martin Marty influenced generations of scholars and helped shape the public discourse on religion and its role in society, and his far-reaching legacy will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Pastor Dr. Martin E. Marty and extend sincere condolences to his family, his friends, and all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Martin Marty.

Hughes

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