

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 710

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Known for his wit and tremendous kindness, as well
20 as his towering intellect, Dr. Marty was a mentor to countless
21 students; with one of his protégés, he codirected a milestone in
22 religious scholarship, the six-year Fundamentalism Project, which
23 examined the role of conservative religious movements around the
24 world; its five volumes of case studies and analytical essays

1 became the standard works in comparative political religion; among
2 myriad accolades, he received the National Humanities Medal, the
3 Distinguished Service Medal of the Association of Theological
4 Schools, and 80 honorary doctorates; the American Academy of
5 Religion established the Martin E. Marty Award for the Public
6 Understanding of Religion, and upon his retirement in 1998, the
7 University of Chicago Divinity School renamed the research center
8 he founded as the Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding
9 of Religion; as the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor
10 Emeritus of the History of Modern Christianity, he continued to
11 write a weekly column for the Marty Center's newsletter and speak to
12 the public and the media; and

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

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

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