By: Cole H.R. No. 25

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Austin lost an admired civic leader and beloved educator with the passing of former city council member Bill Spelman on July 17, 2025, at the age of 68; and

WHEREAS, The son of Dennis and Julia Spelman, William Glenn Spelman grew up in Los Angeles, California, and entered politics as a city commissioner when he was just 17; after earning his doctorate in public policy from Harvard University, he became a researcher for the Police Executive Research Forum in Washington, D.C.; he joined the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs in 1988 and became one of its best-known professors; especially noted for his groundbreaking research on community policing, he received over 6,000 academic citations; during a seven-year period, he garnered $1 million in annual grants to run an institute that trained more than 14,000 police officers in problem-solving; an engaging, witty, and enthusiastic teacher, he challenged students to think more critically while making such subjects as applied quantitative analysis seem fascinating instead of daunting; following his retirement in 2021, he continued to publish and conduct research, and he was named LBJ Emeritus Professor of Public Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spelman shared his expertise as a member of the Austin City Council from 1997 to 2000 and again from 2009 to 2015; always calm and affable, he combined a data-driven approach with deep compassion for the most vulnerable; he championed policing

reform and worked tirelessly to promote government efficiency, affordable housing, and environmental conservation; he cofounded the Neighborhood Partnering Program to give residents a more direct voice in projects affecting their communities; in addition, he was instrumental in passing an ordinance requiring rest breaks for construction workers; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, Mr. Spelman shared a fulfilling marriage with his wife, Niyanta; he was the proud father of two sons, Ronan and Jasiel, and he always made time to support their many interests and activities; and

WHEREAS, The loss of Bill Spelman is keenly felt by all who were privileged to share in the richness of his life, but his outstanding professional and civic contributions will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 90th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Bill Spelman and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Niyanta Spelman; to his sons, Ronan and Jasiel Spelman; to his sister, Janice Spelman; and to his other relatives and host of friends; and, be it further

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