

House Resolution 1872

By: Representatives Holt of the 112th, Mills of the 25th, Lane of the 158th, Burns of the 157th, Williams of the 165th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Helen Sterling; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Helen Sterling was born to Wilma and Burl Carey on October 29, 1963, in
3 Sterling City, Texas, and she had two older brothers, Burl Carey, Jr., of Longmont, Colorado,
4 and Michael Ralph Carey of Social Circle, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Texas Tech University, and
6 after graduating, she moved to San Francisco, California, where she took a job with Charles
7 Schwab in their career development department; and

8 WHEREAS, she enjoyed speech and writing, and she pursued her dream of being the best
9 she could be by joining a Toastmasters club, by taking courses at night in counseling and
10 professional coaching, by learning from books and people, and by participating in many
11 other activities; and

12 WHEREAS, she loved making new friends, especially from different cultures, and enjoyed
13 getting to know them and their backgrounds, and she accomplished this by becoming
14 involved in book clubs and other activities, many of which she organized herself; and

15 WHEREAS, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1997, and as her illness became
16 more severe she moved to Georgia to live with her mother, continuing to live life at full
17 throttle, and while here discovered a program called Helping Hands which offered her the
18 chance to have a specially trained Capuchin monkey placed with her as a helper; and

19 WHEREAS, upon discovering that Georgia law did not allow such animals to serve as
20 helpers, she went to work contacting her state legislator and persuaded him to introduce
21 legislation, despite the fact that passing the bill required her to testify publicly before
22 legislative committees, which she was willing to endure to make the helper monkey program

1 available to others, and her candor and determination were essential to the successful passage
2 of the 2006 Disabled Assistants Act; and

3 WHEREAS, she was a person of tremendous determination and many other highly admirable
4 qualities, and her friendship was considered by all to be a special privilege they will always
5 treasure.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
7 the members of this body join together to recognize the extraordinary life of Helen Sterling
8 and extend to her family and friends their most sincere condolences.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
10 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Helen Sterling.