

By: Huffman, Whitmire

S.R. No. 39

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas takes great pride in paying tribute to Senator Jane Nelson for her 28 years of pioneering leadership and exceptional service on behalf of Texas citizens; and

WHEREAS, A widely respected and much beloved public leader, Jane Nelson enjoyed careers as an educator and a businesswoman before her election to the legislature to represent Senate District 12; she has served the constituents of the district's counties with integrity and dedication for 10 consecutive terms, and she is bringing to a close her distinguished tenure as the longest-serving Republican senator; and

WHEREAS, Jane Nelson first began serving the citizens of Texas in 1988, when she was elected to serve as a member of the Texas State Board of Education; in 1992, she became the 10th woman and the third Republican woman to be elected to the Texas Senate; six years later, Senator Nelson became the first Republican woman to chair a Senate standing committee when she was appointed chair of the Committee on Health Services, and in 2014, she became the first woman to chair the Senate Committee on Finance; she is ending her trailblazing career of legislative leadership after having written four state budgets; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nelson's extensive list of legislative

accomplishments includes establishing the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, reforming medical liability, overhauling the foster care system, expanding access to mental health services, championing 30 pieces of legislation to combat sexual assault and domestic violence, and authoring and supporting numerous bills to the benefit of Texas teachers and students; she is held in high esteem by her colleagues for her professional expertise and bipartisan approach to policymaking, and she is well known for consistently honoring the accomplishments and celebratory milestones of her fellow legislators; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nelson served as president pro tempore during the 78th Interim, and she was Governor for a Day in 2004; she has been honored by such institutions as the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, the Texas Association of Business, and the Texas Council on Family Violence; and

WHEREAS, She has skillfully managed the duties of a senator and has taken care of the needs of her constituents while continuing to be a source of strength to her large and loving family; she is a devoted wife to J. Michael Nelson, and she is a loving mother to their five children and a doting grandmother to their 12 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Jane Nelson has been a trusted voice for her North Texas community and a tireless advocate for women, children, veterans, and the elderly in Texas; she has shaped policy that has ensured government efficiency while improving the lives of all Texans, and her proud legacy of service will continue to

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benefit citizens long into the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor Senator Jane Nelson for her many contributions to the State of Texas and for her outstanding service as a Texas senator; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of high esteem from the Texas Senate.