

By: Springer

S.R. No. 4

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Ellen Grace Fuhrman of Muenster on August 19, 2023, at
3 the age of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Martin J. Friske and Martha Luke
5 Friske, the former Gracie Friske was born in Muenster on October 26,
6 1933; she grew up with four siblings, Jere, Myrtle, Antonia Mae, and
7 Joan, on a farm west of town owned by her grandfather, August
8 Friske; after her graduation from Sacred Heart School, the family
9 moved to a farm north of Lindsay, and she worked at S. H. Kress,
10 Sears Roebuck & Company, and Tractor Sales & Service; she met her
11 future husband, Alvin Fuhrman, when they both went to town to sell
12 eggs; they married on October 20, 1953, and settled on North Cedar
13 Street in Muenster, where they resided for the next 69 years;
14 devoted parents, they raised two sons, Kent and Gene; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Fuhrman became a part-time evening operator
16 with Muenster Telephone in 1955, and six years later, she and her
17 husband purchased an interest in the company; she became
18 secretary/treasurer and subsequently took on such roles as
19 bookkeeper, director of administration, and member of the board;
20 for many years, she mentored employees as office manager and head of
21 human resources; during over six decades in the industry, she
22 served on the board of the Independent Telephone Pioneer
23 Association, and she benefited the Organization for the Promotion
24 and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies as a member

1 of the convention site selection committee from 1997 to 2005; the
2 Texas Telephone Association accorded her its highest honor, the
3 Neville Haynes Award, in 2009; she and her husband enjoyed visiting
4 industry friends across the country on their vacations; the couple
5 also traveled the world together; and

6 WHEREAS, Even as a young mother helping to build a business,
7 Mrs. Fuhrman was active in her community; she was a room mother for
8 her sons at Sacred Heart School and became the school's first female
9 board president; moreover, she was a Cub Scout den mother; she gave
10 generously of her time and talents to such organizations as the
11 Muenster Garden Club, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and
12 planning committees for the city's Germanfest; and

13 WHEREAS, Although Gracie Fuhrman is greatly missed, she has
14 left her family and friends with a host of cherished memories, and
15 she will forever hold a special place in their hearts; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature, 3rd
18 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Ellen Grace
19 Fuhrman and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to
20 her husband of 69 years, Alvin M. Fuhrman; to her son, Kent Fuhrman;
21 to her daughter-in-law, Kaylynn Fuhrman; to her grandson, Conner
22 Fuhrman; to her brothers-in-law, Ray Lueb and Bernard Sandmann; and
23 to her other relatives and friends; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this
26 day, it do so in memory of Ellen Grace "Gracie" Fuhrman.