

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of The Woodlands lost a beloved member
2 of the community with the passing of Mary-Lou Fitch on October 2,
3 2021, at the age of 76; and

4 WHEREAS, Maria-Louisa Knapp Köhler was born in
5 Czechoslovakia on December 22, 1944; she experienced a tumultuous
6 start to her life when her city was invaded by the Red Army and her
7 birth father was killed; after being driven out of the country, her
8 family settled in Germany, where she was raised by her mother and
9 stepfather; and

10 WHEREAS, Following the end of World War II, she immigrated to
11 the United States in 1958 and became a U.S. citizen in 1962; she
12 inherited her passion for community service from her parents, and
13 after learning to play the accordion at age 10, she volunteered to
14 perform music at nursing homes and community centers; she continued
15 her volunteer work while living in upstate New York, where she
16 graduated from college; around that time, she met her future
17 husband, Gary Fitch; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1986, Mr. Fitch's career took the couple to The
19 Woodlands; they built a home in Grogan's Point, and Mrs. Fitch went
20 on to serve the neighborhood during several terms as president of
21 the Grogan's Point Residents Association; over the course of 33
22 years, she had a hand in establishing many organizations and events
23 in The Woodlands, including Class Act Productions, the Montgomery
24 County Women's Council of Organizations, The Woodlands Holiday Home

1 Tour, and The Woodlands Symphony Orchestra; she also contributed
2 her time and talents to charitable causes such as Montgomery County
3 Youth Services, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, CASA, Toys
4 for Tots, and Interfaith of The Woodlands, and she was especially
5 dedicated to bettering the lives of children in need; and

6 WHEREAS, Through the years, Mrs. Fitch received numerous
7 recognitions, including the First Lady Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy
8 Award and the Houston Humanitarian Award, and she was honored with
9 The Woodlands Hometown Hero Award in 2019; and

10 WHEREAS, Above all else, Mrs. Fitch was a loving mother to
11 her four daughters, Marlies, Melissa, Monica, and Michelle, and she
12 took great pride in her treasured grandchildren; and

13 WHEREAS, Mary-Lou Fitch made a profound impact on the lives
14 of countless others, and she will forever be remembered with deep
15 admiration and affection by all those who were fortunate enough to
16 know her; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mary-Lou Fitch and
19 extend sincere sympathy to her family and friends; and, be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mary-Lou
24 Fitch.

Toth

H.R. No. 2306

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2306 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 29, 2023.

Chief Clerk of the House