

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 516

In Memory
of
Mary O. Horn

WHEREAS, Denton County lost a trailblazing civic leader with the passing of former county judge Mary O. Horn on April 21, 2023, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of Lieutenant Commander Dr. O. W. Roberts and Mary Ann Roberts, the former Mary Roberts was born in Owatonna, Minnesota, on June 28, 1945; after studying at Mankato State College and earning certification from the Minnesota School of Business, she began working for Braniff International Airways in Dallas as a flight attendant; she rose to become the only woman among the top executives at the airline before starting her own business in 1982; and

WHEREAS, On May 6, 1967, she married James Nathan "Jim" Horn, and they settled in Denton, where they raised two children, Jennifer and Jim; the couple founded the Denton County Republican Party at their kitchen table in 1972, and Judge Horn campaigned energetically for her husband in his successful campaign for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives; in 1993, she became the first woman to win election as Denton County tax assessor-collector, and nine years later, she became the county's first female judge; during an era of phenomenal growth, she worked tirelessly to maintain a low tax rate while improving efficiency and providing a high level of service to residents; she increased budget reserves, paving the way for a AAA bond rating, modernized the county's taxing systems, and made motor vehicle registration more convenient by creating an online system; in 2004 and 2008, voters approved two bond packages, and she leveraged \$335 million in local funds to bring over \$3 billion for road improvements and construction, expansion, or renovation of county buildings; she retired in 2018, following four consecutive terms, as the longest-serving county judge in Denton County history; and

WHEREAS, Judge Horn shared her expertise in leadership roles with a host of local and state organizations, and she was vice chair of the Texas Workforce Development Board; she served many terms as president of the Denton Republican Women's Club, and she was the Texas Federation of Republican Women's 1988 honoree; and

WHEREAS, Above all, Judge Horn was devoted to her family, which grew to include eight grandchildren, Michael, Elle, Knox, Francie, Houston, Olive, Morgan, and Ashton; her greatest joy was spending time with them, whether attending their athletic events or reading stories, singing songs, and making up silly games; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Horn broke down barriers and skillfully guided Denton County during a transformative period, and although she will be deeply missed, her exceptional contributions will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Mary O. Horn and extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn her passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mary Horn.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 4, 2023, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate