

By: Wohlgemuth

H.R. No. 34

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Gwyn Shea, Texas secretary of state,
2 is retiring from office effective August 4, 2003, to take a post as
3 a senior advisor to Governor Rick Perry, having rendered
4 outstanding service to the people of the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, This esteemed public official assumed the duties of
6 secretary of state in January 2002, following her appointment to
7 the office by Governor Perry; as the state's chief election
8 officer, she has worked with the legislature to ensure that Texas
9 election law is in harmony with the Help America Vote Act, launched
10 a four-prong voter awareness campaign targeting high school
11 students, military personnel, working families, and senior
12 citizens, and successfully overseen several elections, including
13 the November 2002 midterm election; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition, Secretary Shea has assisted the Texas
15 business community by striving to maximize the accessibility and
16 service of the corporations section of the secretary of state's
17 office; moreover, she has led a Texas trade mission to the Canadian
18 provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and signed memorandums of
19 understanding with both Manitoba and the Socialist Republic of
20 Vietnam; in her capacity as secretary of state, she has been
21 involved with Texas-Mexico border affairs, focusing especially on
22 the health and infrastructure needs of colonia residents; and

23 WHEREAS, Before joining the state's executive branch,
24 Secretary Shea served as a member of the Texas House of

1 Representatives from 1982 to 1992 and as a Dallas County constable
2 from 1993 to 2002; while a member of the legislature, she became the
3 first woman to sit on the House Ways and Means Committee and earned
4 widespread recognition for her work with the House Insurance
5 Committee; and

6 WHEREAS, In consequence of her notable legislative service,
7 Ms. Shea was elected president of the National Council of Insurance
8 Legislators and was tapped for many accolades; among the
9 organizations paying tribute to her were the Texas Municipal
10 League, Texas Association of Business, Texas Civil Justice League,
11 and Texas Association of Concerned Tax Payers; and

12 WHEREAS, Secretary Shea was appointed as a Dallas County
13 constable in 1993 and was reelected to that office in 1994, 1996,
14 and 2000; serving Irving, Coppell, and North Dallas, she succeeded
15 in returning more than \$1 million annually in hot check restitution
16 and postjudgment collections; and

17 WHEREAS, Governor George W. Bush enlisted Gwyn Shea's
18 expertise in behalf of the state on several occasions, naming her to
19 the Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Facility in 1995 and
20 selecting her as president of the Texas Healthy Kids Corporation in
21 1997; and

22 WHEREAS, During the 30 years that Secretary Shea has lived in
23 Dallas County, she has participated in numerous community
24 organizations, serving as director of the Irving Chamber of
25 Commerce, president of that chamber's women's division, and
26 advisory board member of the Irving Infant Intervention Center and
27 Irving CARES; and

1 WHEREAS, With a more relaxed schedule ahead of her after many
2 years in public office, Secretary Shea is looking forward to
3 enjoying family life with her two children and grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, Gwyn Shea has served her fellow Texans with the
5 utmost integrity, ability, and devotion for more than two decades,
6 and she is indeed deserving of commendation for her immeasurable
7 contributions to the state; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
9 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby honor Gwyn Shea for her
10 exemplary stewardship as Texas secretary of state and extend to her
11 profound appreciation for her many years of distinguished public
12 service; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Secretary Shea as an expression of high regard by the
15 Texas House of Representatives.