

By: Denny

H.R. No. 55

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The affinity and deep respect Dorothea Griffith
2 Oliver has for all things pertinent to the Lone Star State make it a
3 pleasure to recognize her 90th birthday and to bestow on her the
4 title of Honorary Texan; and

5 WHEREAS, Born October 18, 1913, and raised in central Ohio,
6 Mrs. Oliver earned a degree in English and Latin from distinguished
7 Denison University and went on to teach in Kirkersville, Ohio; and

8 WHEREAS, This devoted mother raised three accomplished
9 children: Joseph Brooke, her oldest son, graduated from Princeton
10 University and became a prominent architect; her second son, Price
11 Curtis, was an accomplished jazz pianist and interior designer in
12 Chicago; and her daughter, Deborah Hollifield, is a four-term
13 justice of the peace in Denton County; and

14 WHEREAS, Determined to establish her legacy in Texas, Mrs.
15 Oliver saw to it that her daughter became an elected county official
16 and insisted that she marry Celina rancher Chris Hollifield, a
17 27-year employee in the state comptroller's office; in 1981, she
18 moved heaven and earth to arrange for her grandson, Jacob, to be
19 born in Lewisville; and

20 WHEREAS, Finally, Mrs. Oliver had everything in place The Way
21 It Ought To Be; after a three-decade retirement in Arizona (where
22 she had waited for details to be worked out in Texas), she
23 celebrated the new millennium by deciding to spend the next 1,000
24 years in the Lone Star State (as that's where everyone wants to be

1 from, and where everybody eventually ends up); and

2 WHEREAS, On her arrival, the former Latin teacher added Texan
3 to her language skills and now routinely uses phrases like "fixin'
4 to" and "git me" as though they were the King's English; in
5 addition, she now measures distance in hours, rather than miles--as
6 in, "It's about four hours to Austin"; and

7 WHEREAS, Her cultural acclimation has included tours of the
8 great State Fair of Texas, the Dallas Arboretum, and the Bluebonnet
9 Trails, concerts at Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth, and the
10 Fourth of July celebration at Prestonwood Baptist Church; she has
11 also become a fan of the Vocal Majority; and

12 WHEREAS, As does any native daughter, she eats her
13 sweet-and-sour shrimp at Royal China in Dallas, steak at the
14 Stockyards, and pie at the Bluebonnet Cafe in Marble Falls; a noted
15 shopaholic, she has spent plenty of money in Dallas, Fort Worth,
16 Celina, Plano, McKinney, Denton, Salado, and Fredricksburg (and if
17 she's missed your town, she wants you to know she still has a little
18 set aside for when she gets there); and

19 WHEREAS, After 90 years of impatiently waiting for her to
20 arrive, the Texas House of Representatives is proud at long last to
21 grant Texas citizenship and the full rights and privileges accorded
22 to individuals native to the Lone Star State to Dorothea Griffith
23 Oliver; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
25 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby recognize Dorothea
26 Griffith Oliver as an Honorary Texan and extend to her sincere best
27 wishes for good fortune and happiness in the future; and, be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That this resolution serve as formal proof of Mrs.

3 Oliver's new status.