

By: Dawson

H.R. No. 1469

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Mary Belle Ingram of Bay City has received the Ruth  
2 Lester Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Historical  
3 Commission for her exceptional contributions to historic  
4 preservation in the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, Ms. Ingram has been a driving force in historic  
6 preservation at the city and county levels for more than three  
7 decades, and the impact of her work is evident throughout Matagorda  
8 County; notable among the fruits of her labors are the Matagorda  
9 County Museum and its archives, which she played an instrumental  
10 role in establishing; currently a regular volunteer at the museum,  
11 she is also chair emeritus of the Matagorda County Museum  
12 Association; and

13           WHEREAS, A member of the Matagorda County Historical  
14 Commission since 1967, Ms. Ingram has served as its vice chair,  
15 preservation chair, and marker chair, and in the latter capacity  
16 researched and wrote nearly 20 historical marker narratives; and

17           WHEREAS, In 2000 she initiated the effort to have Matagorda  
18 County approved as a Certified Local Government (CLG); furthermore,  
19 she rendered invaluable assistance to a survey of the county's  
20 historic resources by writing a successful CLG grant application to  
21 support the work and by volunteering untold hours of research and  
22 expertise; and

23           WHEREAS, Ms. Ingram also drafted Bay City's historic  
24 preservation ordinance, helped launch the town's historic plaque

1 program, and today chairs its landmark commission; she has  
2 researched more than 200 structures within the square mile that  
3 constituted the original part of the city, and she chaired the  
4 design committee of the town's Main Street program when it  
5 established a 22-block historic district; and

6 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan formed a Junior Historian  
7 chapter at McAllister Junior High School in the late 1960s, and  
8 during her outstanding 30-year teaching career she tutored numerous  
9 students in the craft of writing local history; her own articles  
10 appear frequently in the *Bay City Tribune*, and she has both written  
11 and contributed research to several other publications, including a  
12 multivolume history of Matagorda County, a newspaper series marking  
13 the county's sesquicentennial, and a history of Bay City's First  
14 United Methodist Church; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Ingram has served as president of both the  
16 Matagorda County Historical Society and the Matagorda County  
17 Genealogical Society; among the accolades she has garnered have  
18 been an award for her church history and tributes from the State  
19 Genealogical Society, the Matagorda County Museum, and the Bay City  
20 Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture; and

21 WHEREAS, Through her dynamic leadership and tireless  
22 commitment to preserving the heritage of her city and county, Mary  
23 Belle Ingram has bequeathed a legacy of immeasurable richness to  
24 all Texans; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
26 Legislature hereby congratulate Mary Belle Ingram on her receipt of  
27 the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas

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1 Historical Commission and extend to her sincere best wishes for  
2 continued success in all her endeavors; and, be it further

3       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
4 prepared for Ms. Ingram as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
5 House of Representatives.