

By: Dawson

H.R. No. 55

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Matagorda County historian Mary Belle Ingram is  
2 marking a significant milestone in her life with the observance of  
3 her 90th birthday on July 9, 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Mankins, in Archer County, Mrs. Ingram  
5 was born on July 9, 1916, to Vera Frazier and Watkins L. Richeson;  
6 she received bachelor's and master's degrees from North Texas State  
7 University and librarian certification from The University of Texas  
8 at Austin; and

9 WHEREAS, Mary Belle Richeson married Harmon Jerome  
10 McAllister in 1941 and the couple were blessed with three children,  
11 Jerome Watt, Julianne, and William Robert; fortunate to find love a  
12 second time, after her husband's passing in 1963, she married John  
13 William Ingram in 1973, and with him enjoyed a rewarding  
14 relationship until his death a decade later; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Ingram retired from the Bay City Independent  
16 School District in 1978, at the conclusion of a 30-year career in  
17 education; during her time as the librarian at McAllister Junior  
18 High School, she organized that school's Junior Historian Program;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, This accomplished woman has devoted much of her  
21 adult life to studying local history and ensuring that future  
22 generations of Matagorda County residents will have access to the  
23 story of their proud heritage; to that end, she has provided dynamic  
24 leadership as a member of the Matagorda County Museum Association,

1 Matagorda County Historical Commission, Matagorda County  
2 Historical Society, and Matagorda County Genealogical Society; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition, she coordinated work on the two-volume  
4 *Historic Matagorda County*, a substantial portion of which she  
5 researched and compiled herself, and she has researched and written  
6 narratives for numerous local historical markers; her publications  
7 also include many articles and the book *110 Years of Methodism*, a  
8 history of the First United Methodist Church in Bay City; and

9 WHEREAS, For her civic involvement, she has twice been named  
10 Outstanding Woman Citizen by the Bay City Chamber of Commerce, and  
11 in 1976 she was chosen as Outstanding Woman of the Year by the local  
12 Beta Sigma Phi chapter; her professional contributions have earned  
13 her the Schoolmen's Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley  
14 Forge, selection as one of 10 finalists for the Texas Teacher of the  
15 Year award in 1974, and designation as first runner-up for the 1978  
16 Texas Teacher of the Year award sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of  
17 the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

18 WHEREAS, Other accolades bestowed on Mrs. Ingram include the  
19 Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Texas  
20 Historical Commission, the Kate Warnick Award, given by the Texas  
21 United Methodist Historical Society, and the DAR History Award,  
22 conferred on her by the Mary Rolph Marsh Chapter of the Daughters of  
23 the American Revolution; and

24 WHEREAS, The birthday of Mary Belle Ingram provides a fitting  
25 opportunity to recognize this esteemed Texan for her tireless civic  
26 spirit and for the immeasurable contributions she has made to  
27 historic preservation in Matagorda County; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
2 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate Mary Belle  
3 Ingram on her 90th birthday and commend her for her remarkable work  
4 in behalf of her fellow citizens as a dedicated historian; and, be  
5 it further

6           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
7 prepared for Mrs. Ingram as an expression of high regard by the  
8 Texas House of Representatives.