

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Charlene Ricketts of Abilene has embraced life's
2 rewards and challenges with enthusiasm and grace, and in doing so
3 she has set an example to which all can aspire; and

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Ricketts grew up on a farm outside of Mora,
5 Missouri, without electricity or other amenities; she attended a
6 nearby school, where she played the clarinet in the band and
7 developed bonds with teachers and friends that still endure; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Ricketts attended Central Missouri State
9 University in Warrensburg; a young sailor, Bill Ricketts, enrolled
10 in the Naval Officers Training Program, caught her eye, romance
11 blossomed, and the two were married in July 1945; they were blessed
12 with three children, a daughter, Elizabeth Ann Ricketts Marcus, and
13 two sons, Charles John Ricketts and Robert William Ricketts; and

14 WHEREAS, The untimely passing of her husband in 1959 made
15 Mrs. Ricketts a single mother, but determination and hard work made
16 her a successful provider; she moved her family to Abilene and did
17 what she could to make ends meet, selling her home-baked pies,
18 making Christmas stockings, and typing papers for students at the
19 local college; and

20 WHEREAS, After her children were enrolled in school, Mrs.
21 Ricketts took a job at Abilene Christian University; her
22 association with the institution continues to this day; since 1972,
23 she has ably served as secretary for State Representative Bob
24 Hunter, senior vice president emeritus of ACU; throughout her

1 career, she has adhered to the highest standards of professionalism
2 and earned the lasting respect and admiration of her employer and
3 colleagues alike; and

4 WHEREAS, Committed to a range of worthy causes, she has been a
5 valued member of the Abilene Business Women's Association, Western
6 Horizons Chapter, lending her talents to the Junior Miss
7 Scholarship Program; she also serves her congregation at Hillcrest
8 Church of Christ, teaching classes for young children; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Ricketts is now the matriarch of a loving
10 family that has grown to include eight grandchildren, Kimberly
11 Alderman, Kelley Latson, Todd Latson, Halie B. Ricketts, Andrea
12 Chumbley, Scott Chumbley, Alyssa Abjornson, and Will Ricketts, and
13 five great-grandchildren; and

14 WHEREAS, Still active and vibrant at the age of 80, she walks
15 three miles a day, sometimes more on weekends; an avid runner and
16 tennis player, she has hundreds of trophies to her credit; she also
17 enjoys music, reading, theater, the symphony, and visits to museums
18 and the zoo; and

19 WHEREAS, Charlene Ricketts has enriched the lives of
20 countless Texans with her passion, dedication, and wisdom, and she
21 is truly an inspiration to all those fortunate to know her; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
24 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Charlene Ricketts
25 for her many achievements and extend to her best wishes for the
26 future; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 271

1 prepared for Mrs. Ricketts as an expression of high regard by the
2 Texas House of Representatives.

Hunter

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 271 was adopted by the House on May 5, 2006, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House