

By: Homer

H.R. No. 31

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 100th birthday of an esteemed Texan is truly
2 cause for celebration, and on January 15, 2005, Grace DeWeese
3 Williams is being honored at a party hosted by her family at First
4 Baptist Church of Paris; and

5 WHEREAS, The Texas native was born on January 17, 1905, in
6 Paris, to James William and Martha "Mattie" Ratliff DeWeese, both
7 members of pioneer Lamar County families; a remarkable event of her
8 childhood that remains a vivid memory for Mrs. Williams is the Great
9 Paris Fire of 1916, which occurred when she was 11 years old; and

10 WHEREAS, She graduated from Paris High School, attended Mary
11 Hardin Baylor College, and received a bachelor's degree from Baylor
12 University in 1926; that same year, she married John W. Williams,
13 Jr., an engineer with the Atlantic Oil Company, and the couple lived
14 in various Louisiana and Texas cities, including Dallas, before
15 returning to Paris in 1945, where they owned and operated Williams'
16 Sporting Goods; and

17 WHEREAS, The matriarch of a cherished family that has grown
18 to encompass four generations, Mrs. Williams takes great pride in
19 her daughter and son-in-law, Patsy and Norman Davis; her four
20 grandchildren and their spouses, John and Connie Davis, Susan and
21 Steve Bellene, Jim and Susan Davis, and Sally Cosgrove and her
22 husband, the Reverend Mike Cosgrove; and her great-grandchildren,
23 Jeff, Sara, Laura, and Bryan Davis, Alisha and Tommy Huff, Patrick
24 and Alison Bellene, and Madeline, Samuel, CarolAnne, and Hannah

1 Cosgrove; and

2 WHEREAS, This lovely lady is a loyal congregant of the First
3 Baptist Church, where she has taught Sunday school and participated
4 in the Women's Missionary Society, while her further civic
5 involvement has included study and garden clubs as well as various
6 organizations devoted to history; and

7 WHEREAS, The birthday of Mrs. Williams provides a fitting
8 opportunity to honor this beloved woman who continues to inspire
9 all who are privileged to know her; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
11 Legislature hereby congratulate Grace DeWeese Williams on the
12 joyous occasion of her 100th birthday and extend to her sincere best
13 wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

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