

By: Smith of Harris

H.R. No. 35

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Bernice Hlanak Simmons of Baytown on
2 August 21, 2004, has brought a profound loss to the family and
3 friends of this beloved woman; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Fayetteville, Texas, Mrs. Simmons graduated
5 from Robert E. Lee High School and worked for the U.S. Post Office
6 in West Baytown before marrying Perry Simmons, with whom she raised
7 two cherished daughters, Marsha "Betsy" Furlow and Sarah "Sally"
8 Firestone; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Simmons took great pride in her role as
10 matriarch of a close-knit family and created a warm and loving home
11 for her husband and children; noted for her housekeeping and
12 gardening skills, she was also an exceptional cook whose culinary
13 prowess was known throughout the community; in addition to being
14 affectionately referred to as the "First Lady" of the Blue Arrow
15 Café where her delicious pies were featured, she enjoyed the
16 distinction of having several of her prized recipes published in
17 *The Cook on the Block* cookbook; and

18 WHEREAS, After her daughters left home to attend college,
19 Mrs. Simmons reentered the career world, this time as a sales
20 representative for Robson Jewelers and later Jacobs Jewelry; and

21 WHEREAS, Although Bernice Simmons will be greatly missed, her
22 legacy will live on in the hearts of all those whose lives she so
23 richly blessed with her love and friendship; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Bernice
2 Hlanak Simmons and extend deepest sympathy to the members of her
3 family: to her husband of 54 years, Perry Simmons; to her daughters
4 and son-in-law, Marsha "Betsy" and Robert Furlow and Sarah "Sally"
5 Firestone; to her grandchildren, Christi Smykal, Tucker and Ty
6 Furlow, and Russell Perry Firestone; to her nephews, Reggie and Lin
7 Hlanak and Mark Hlanak and his wife, Sherry; and to all who mourn
8 the passing of this much-loved woman; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House
11 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bernice
12 Hlanak Simmons.