

By: Hodge

H.R. No. 597

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends deeply mourn the passing of Betty
2 Jo Peacock Hay of Dallas, who died at the age of 73 on February 16,
3 2005, but they may take comfort in memories of a life filled with
4 joyful times and meaningful accomplishments; and

5 WHEREAS, The former president of the National Mental Health
6 Association, Betty Jo Hay was widely admired for her tireless
7 advocacy in behalf of children, education, and mental health
8 issues, and her work influenced public policy and inspired
9 generations of volunteers; and

10 WHEREAS, Born in McAlester, Oklahoma, Mrs. Hay moved to
11 Dallas with her family when she was 12 and attended Sunset High
12 School; a skilled debater, she developed a lifelong passion for
13 politics following the election of her uncle, Carl Albert, to the
14 United States Congress; after graduating from Southern Methodist
15 University with a bachelor's degree in speech, she married Jess
16 Hay, a fellow debater; the early years of her marriage were spent
17 volunteering for political campaigns and raising two daughters; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hay's civic life was centered around a deep
19 interest in the role of education in the lives of young people, and
20 her decades of service included 13 consecutive years as a PTA room
21 mother and six years on the Coordinating Board of the Texas College
22 and University System; in 1972, she received a phone call asking her
23 to serve as chair of the Galaxy Ball, the annual fund-raiser for the
24 Texas Mental Health Association, and thus began a volunteer career

1 devoted to needs of the mental health community; she joined the
2 organization's national board in 1978 and was elected president of
3 the Dallas chapter in 1981 and 1982; after serving as president of
4 the state organization, she was elected to serve as president of the
5 National Mental Health Association in 1986; and

6 WHEREAS, This tenacious woman, along with her husband,
7 combined their interests in education and health to fund the Betty
8 Jo Hay Distinguished Chair in Mental Health at UT Southwestern, and
9 the couple's gifts to the school have helped fund a research center
10 for mood disorders; in 1990, Mrs. Hay received the Sandy Brandt
11 Volunteer Award, the National Mental Health Association's highest
12 honor for volunteers; and

13 WHEREAS, Another proud moment in the life of this notable
14 civic leader came when she was appointed by the United States Senate
15 to serve on the 18-member National Commission on Children; this
16 appointment provided only one of many venues through which she made
17 her voice heard on issues facing young people: she also served as a
18 member of the Texas Commission on Children and Youth, the
19 Governor's Council on Disabilities, the National Committee for the
20 Prevention of Child Abuse, and the Hogg Foundation's commission on
21 children and their families, to name but a few; and

22 WHEREAS, A loving mother and grandmother, Mrs. Hay was an
23 ardent Democrat with a vivacious, good-humored personality that
24 complemented her deep intellectual prowess; she was a
25 much-treasured citizen of Dallas and will be deeply missed by those
26 who knew her and by those who were touched by her extraordinary
27 commitment to community service; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Betty Jo Peacock Hay
3 and extend deepest sympathy to the members of her family: to her
4 husband, Jess Hay; to her daughters, Deborah Hay Spradley and
5 Patricia Hay Daibert; to her son-in-law, E. Webb Spradley; to her
6 grandchildren, Jessica Kathryn Werner, Rachel Hay Spradley, and
7 Jess Hay Daibert; and to the many other members of her family and
8 friends; and, be it further

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