

By: Cook of Colorado

H.R. No. 659

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times, loving  
2 moments, and meaningful accomplishments may comfort and console the  
3 family of Charlyne Jo Stephens Spanihel of Eagle Lake, who passed  
4 away on January 31, 2005, at the age of 77; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Austin on February 27, 1927, to Marie Viola  
6 Cain Stephens and Charles Draper Stephens, Mrs. Spanihel was a  
7 lifelong resident of Eagle Lake and graduated valedictorian from  
8 its high school in 1944; she studied chemical engineering at The  
9 University of Texas at Austin and was a member of the American  
10 Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Society of Women Student  
11 Architects and Engineers; and

12           WHEREAS, Mrs. Spanihel accepted employment with Shell Oil  
13 Company in Eagle Lake and wed Leon J. "Sonny" Spanihel on April 5,  
14 1948; their happy union was blessed with six cherished children,  
15 Cynthia, Joe Mike, Teresa, Mary Jo, Stephen, and Shawn; and

16           WHEREAS, When her children grew older, Mrs. Spanihel returned  
17 to school and attained her teaching certificate and bachelor's  
18 degree in mathematics at the University of Houston, and she later  
19 earned her master's degree in education and computer science, as  
20 well as certifications in supervision and mid-management  
21 administration; and

22           WHEREAS, She taught middle and high school students as well  
23 as parent and GED classes at Wharton High School, Eagle Lake Middle  
24 School, George Junior High School, B. F. Terry High School, and

1 Saint Anthony School, where she took on a challenging new role as  
2 principal in 1992; and

3 WHEREAS, Also active in her community, she was a member of Our  
4 Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and its altar society, the  
5 Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and the Equestrian Order of the  
6 Holy Sepulchre; she gave of her time and talents to the Austin  
7 Diocese Council of Catholic Women and the National Council of  
8 Catholic Women, taught catechism, worked as a counselor and sponsor  
9 for the Boy Scouts of America's religious Ad Altare Dei Award,  
10 shared her musical talents with her congregation in a variety of  
11 capacities, and served as a drug abuse coordinator for the State  
12 Council of the Knights of Columbus; moreover, she benefited her  
13 community as a member of the South Texas Girl Scout Council and as  
14 an EMT with the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps and by supporting the  
15 Eagle Lake Fire Department; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Spanihel was repeatedly acknowledged for her  
17 invaluable contributions and was lauded for her outstanding service  
18 with the WICS and Job Corps programs and was named First Lady of the  
19 Year by the Alpha Delta Phi and Xi Pi Psi sororities; and

20 WHEREAS, Those fortunate enough to have known this  
21 exceptional woman will remember her zest for life and her love for  
22 family and community; although she will be greatly missed, her  
23 legacy will live on in the hearts of those whose lives she so richly  
24 blessed; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
26 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Charlyne Jo  
27 Stephens Spanihel and extend deepest sympathy to the members of her

1 family: to her children, Cynthia Ann Sunderman and her husband,  
2 Edward, Joe Mike Spanihel and his wife, Diane, Teresa Marie Briscoe  
3 and her husband, Frank, Mary Jo Spanihel, Stephen Patrick Spanihel  
4 and his wife, Vivian, and Shawn Kevin Spanihel; to her  
5 grandchildren, Chad Edward Sunderman and his wife, Rachel, Stacey  
6 Elizabeth Leopold and her husband, Dustin, Kurt Michael Sunderman  
7 and his wife, Shara, Michelle Lynn Primrose and her husband, Jody,  
8 Adam Michael Briscoe and his wife, Amanda, Stephanie Renee Tribe  
9 and her husband, Philip, Jessica Lynn Spanihel, Lauren Kay  
10 Spanihel, Justin Joseph Briscoe, and Danielle Marie Spanihel; to  
11 her great-grandchildren, Colton, Dakotah, Cason, and Jakelyn; to  
12 her brother and sister-in-law, Draper and Patty Stephens; to her  
13 sister-in-law, Grace Spanihel; to her brother-in-law, John  
14 Dullahan; and to the other relatives and many friends of this  
15 esteemed woman; and, be it further

16         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Charlyne Jo  
19 Stephens Spanihel.