

By: Hopson

H.R. No. 1361

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Austin lost a beloved resident and an
2 admired businesswoman with the death of Eleanor Helen Liebscher Nau
3 on April 9, 2005, at the age of 95; and

4 WHEREAS, The cofounder of the Austin landmark, Nau's Enfield
5 Drug Store, Eleanor Nau continued to keep the store's books, using
6 an ancient adding machine and paying the employees cash in brown
7 envelopes, until her retirement at the age of 87; and

8 WHEREAS, Born in Giddings on November 12, 1909, Mrs. Nau
9 attended business college in Dallas after graduating from Giddings
10 High School; a tall and elegant beauty, she married the love of her
11 life, Hilton Ernest Nau, on September 28, 1945, in San Antonio,
12 after he returned from World War II; and

13 WHEREAS, In partnership with Mr. Nau's brother, Ladner, the
14 couple opened their first drugstore, Nueces Drug Store, soon after
15 they married, working long hours to develop the business; in 1951,
16 they opened Nau's Enfield Drug Store in Clarksville, an enduring,
17 old-fashioned pharmacy complete with a soda fountain and lunch
18 counter; and

19 WHEREAS, While Mr. Nau, a pharmacist, filled prescriptions,
20 Mrs. Nau kept the books and purchased knickknacks for the store; an
21 outgoing person with a sharp wit, she loved to talk to customers at
22 the lunch counter and viewed her employees as family; as she and her
23 husband were die-hard fans of The University of Texas Longhorns,
24 they frequently hired UT students to work in the store and took them

1 into their home and hearts; the Naus sold the business in 1972 to
2 one of those former students, Lambert Labay, who still owns the
3 store today and who insisted that Mrs. Nau continue to keep the
4 books after the sale, which she did for another 25 years; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition to handling bookkeeping and purchasing
6 for the store, Mrs. Nau was an active member of First English
7 Lutheran Church and a dedicated volunteer with St. David's
8 Volunteer Auxiliary Association; and

9 WHEREAS, Nau's Enfield Drug Store stands today as an eloquent
10 reminder of its original owners, Eleanor and Hilton Nau; Mrs. Nau
11 will also be remembered for her bountiful love for her husband and
12 for her nieces and nephews, her exceptional talents as a cook, and
13 her lasting beauty; even as her health failed her, she refused to
14 relinquish her trademark red lipstick and red fingernail polish,
15 and was a true southern lady to the end; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Eleanor Helen
18 Liebscher Nau and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her
19 family: to her nephews and nieces, Marvin and Rita Christiansen,
20 Charles and Edna Christiansen, Vernell Christiansen Kruemcke,
21 Carol Anne and A. J. Stayton, and her niece-in-law, Florence
22 Christiansen; to her sister-in-law, Kathryn Nau; and to her other
23 relatives and friends; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House
26 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Eleanor
27 Helen Liebscher Nau.