

By: Wong

H.R. No. 1430

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Elnora Mayeux Callegari, matriarch of a large and
2 loving family, passed away on March 7, 2005, at the age of 87, in
3 Cottonport, Louisiana, and her loss has left a void in the lives of
4 all who knew and loved this revered mother, grandmother, and
5 great-grandmother; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Callegari was born in Avoyelles Parish,
7 Louisiana, on August 28, 1917, the youngest of six children; raised
8 in the family home on the site of the former Norwood Plantation in
9 Simmesport, Louisiana, she was brought up by her father, her
10 brother, and her four sisters following the untimely death of her
11 mother in 1922; she attended Moreauville Grammar School and
12 graduated from Simmesport High School in 1933; and

13 WHEREAS, For three years, this vibrant and intelligent lady
14 studied education at Southeastern College in Hammond, Louisiana;
15 before earning her degree, however, she married Jerome Preston
16 Callegari, with whom she raised six sons and one daughter; she was
17 preceded in death by her beloved husband, by her son, U.S. Air Force
18 First Lieutenant Jerome P. Callegari, Jr., and by her daughter,
19 Mary Callegari Cleland; and

20 WHEREAS, Following the passing of her husband, and after
21 raising their seven children, Mrs. Callegari returned to college to
22 complete her degree; in 1976, at the age of 59, she earned a
23 bachelor's degree in education from Louisiana College in Pineville,
24 the same year that her seventh child graduated from college; and

1 WHEREAS, Passionate about education, Mrs. Callegari taught
2 elementary school and French at St. Mary's School, Cottonport
3 Elementary School, and St. Joseph's High School; she taught school
4 until the age of 77 and was adored by students and teachers alike;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Callegari was known as the faculty's friend,
7 philosopher, and advisor on anything from raising children to
8 humoring husbands or wives and often provided a sympathetic ear, a
9 pat on the hand, and a word of encouragement when it was most
10 needed; her students loved her and enjoyed learning French under
11 her direction; she often wore a wide white spangled belt, which
12 prompted the children to call her "Wonder Woman," a truly apt
13 moniker for this gifted educator; and

14 WHEREAS, Two of her famous sayings were, "There was a lot of
15 water under the bridge" and "If you don't have anything nice to say,
16 then don't say it"; her advice to young mothers about children could
17 be summed up in the following quote: "Trust them, love them,
18 understand them, and most of all, learn to roll with the punches.";
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Callegari was immensely proud of the fact that
21 each of her seven children graduated from college; her unwavering
22 support for her offspring was evidenced through her active
23 participation in the many extracurricular activities undertaken by
24 her children; she cheered for her sons from the stands during untold
25 football games and other athletic events and enthusiastically
26 applauded after band performances, always encouraging her
27 youngsters in their endeavors; and

1 WHEREAS, Known by family members as "Hecky," a childhood
2 nickname inspired by her mischievous and lively nature, Mrs.
3 Callegari was called "Grandma Hecky" by her legion of grandchildren
4 and great-grandchildren; and

5 WHEREAS, Elnora Callegari was a devoted wife and mother who
6 doted on her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and although
7 she is no longer with us, her spirit lives on in the memories of her
8 loved ones and through the legacy of her children and their
9 families; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Elnora Mayeux
12 Callegari and extend deepest sympathy to the members of her family:
13 to her sons, State Representative William A. Callegari and his
14 wife, Ann; Stephen R. Callegari, Sr., and his wife, Iris; Michael J.
15 Callegari and his wife, Peggy; Ralph L. Callegari and his wife,
16 Debbie; and Richard M. Callegari and his wife, Lisa; to her 22
17 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren; and to the many other
18 relatives and friends of this beloved woman; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Elnora
22 Mayeux Callegari.