

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 1527

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Catherine Morrison Benson, lovingly known as
2 "Kitty" by all who came into her long life of service to others; and
3 who passed away on May 25, 2005, in her hometown of Abilene, Texas,
4 where she and her late husband, Joe, lived; she is survived by her
5 son and daughter-in-law, Joseph Chaffin Benson, Jr. and Mary Ann
6 Kendrick Benson of Austin, daughter Julia Catherine Benson, five
7 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and

8 WHEREAS, She came to Dallas when her father was named head
9 coach and athletic director at Southern Methodist University and
10 she graduated from Highland Park High School and SMU; and

11 WHEREAS, She was one of the most active civic volunteers
12 during her lifetime, especially with the West Texas Rehabilitation
13 Center where she served with dedication from its very beginning,
14 and she organized the Taylor County Society for Crippled Children
15 while serving as its first President; and

16 WHEREAS, She served as the first Executive Director for the
17 Abilene Mental Health Association and was a volunteer for the
18 Abilene Rape Crisis Center; and

19 WHEREAS, As one keenly interested in education she served an
20 interim term on the Abilene School Board and trained docents in art
21 education for special education classes at Fannin Elementary School
22 in Abilene; and

23 WHEREAS, She was actively involved with the Abilene Fine Arts
24 Museum, the Old Jail Art Center in Albany, and the Abilene Opera

1 Association as a member of the board of directors where she
2 established the Joseph Chaffin Benson Memorial Fund; and

3 WHEREAS, She was honored and revered for her dedication to
4 the arts as a painter, art historian, and art patron; and

5 WHEREAS, She donated her extensive collection of art books to
6 the Center for Contemporary Arts in Abilene; and

7 WHEREAS, As a member of the Junior League she participated in
8 many worthy community endeavors, and as a volunteer for the Abilene
9 State School she enabled many individuals and their families to
10 enjoy a better life; and

11 WHEREAS, She taught at McMurry University and lectured at
12 both Abilene Christian University and Hardin Simmons University,
13 where she was admired by students and faculty alike; and

14 WHEREAS, A memorial service in her honor was held at the St.
15 Paul United Methodist Church of Abilene where she was remembered as
16 a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and
17 Christian servant; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
19 Legislature pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of
20 Catherine Morrison Benson as a notable citizen of our great state;
21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for her family and friends, as well as the libraries of her
24 charitable interests and the institutions of higher education in
25 her city of Abilene.