

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 851

In Memory
of
Helen Ann Fisher

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Houston in mourning the loss of Helen Ann Fisher, who died May 1, 2005, at the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, Born March 2, 1930, in Houston, Helen grew up in the Riverside neighborhood with her adoptive parents, Madeline and Virgil Fisher; she credited the variety of cultures in that vibrant neighborhood with giving her a sense of community that served as a foundation for her life and career; and

WHEREAS, Helen graduated from Texas Christian University with double majors in religion and psychology, and she earned a master's degree in social work from The University of Texas at Austin; she devoted her professional career to the development of programs for children; and

WHEREAS, She lived for many years on the East Coast, where she assisted in creating children's programs for a number of agencies in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; she returned to Houston in 1980 to work for The University of Texas Medical School at Houston in the Pediatric Department; and

WHEREAS, A tireless advocate for children, Helen maintained a private practice specializing in adoption studies; she also worked as a consultant for children's services for Saint Mark's Episcopal Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit and worked in the therapeutic foster care program at the Children's Center in Galveston; and

WHEREAS, A longtime political activist and a proud "Yellow Dog Democrat," Helen was a Democratic precinct chair for many years and a member of the Harris County Democratic Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Nicknamed "The Hat," Helen delighted in political conventions and rallies; she was always easy to recognize, with her hat adorned with political buttons and her ready smile; her photo album was full of pictures of herself with the men and women she admired, including President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Sheila Jackson Lee, Ann Richards, and many more; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of Social Workers benefited from Helen's leadership and expertise; beginning in 1956, she served in a variety of posts, including that of Houston Branch secretary and Houston Branch chair; she also served as president of the association's Texas Chapter; and

WHEREAS, A woman of courage, strength, and compassion, Helen gave generously of herself to others, and her wisdom, warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew her; and

WHEREAS, Helen Fisher lived her life to the fullest, and she leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by her family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family and friends of Helen Ann Fisher; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Helen Ann Fisher.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 10, 2005, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate