

By: Hill

H.R. No. 11

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The residents of Richardson lost a beloved and  
2 respected community leader with the death of Billye Meyer, who  
3 passed away on May 18, 2006, at the age of 89; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on April 19, 1917, in Oklahoma, the former  
5 Billye Lee spent her childhood in Paris, Texas, before moving to  
6 Richardson as a youth to work as a housekeeper and caregiver during  
7 the Great Depression; blessed with an unbeatable zest for life, she  
8 quickly adapted to her new home and became a familiar presence at  
9 community events; on August 25, 1935, she married the love of her  
10 life, Lester Meyer, and the couple's family grew to include three  
11 cherished children, Lady Ellen, Jim, and Johnnye; and

12           WHEREAS, Ms. Meyer joined the staff of Citizens Bank in the  
13 early 1950s and soon made her mark as a friendly professional who  
14 went out of her way to give each customer personal service; always  
15 donning a unique hat, she began her career by making home visits to  
16 the city's new residents with coupons that promised free ice cream  
17 in exchange for their banking business; by the time of her  
18 retirement in 1999, the "hat lady" had ascended to the rank of  
19 executive vice president and was a member of the bank's board of  
20 directors; and

21           WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to helping those in need, Billye  
22 Meyer was actively involved in numerous service organizations,  
23 including the Rotary Club, Altrusa International, the Richardson  
24 YMCA, the American Cancer Society, and the Network of Community

1 Ministries, which she served since its inception in 1986; moreover,  
2 she shared her time and talents with many diverse groups, including  
3 American Field Service for Students, the Boy and Girl Scouts, the  
4 Richardson Symphony Orchestra, Texas A&M University, and American  
5 Airlines, to name but a few; and

6 WHEREAS, She also passionately supported her adopted  
7 hometown as it transformed from a quiet farming community to a hub  
8 of the telecommunications industry, and among the myriad civic  
9 institutions that benefited from her keen attention are the  
10 Richardson Independent School District, the Richardson Fire and  
11 Police Departments, the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, the  
12 Richardson Public Library, Richardson General Hospital, Richland  
13 College, the City Arts Commission, and the Richardson Jaycees,  
14 which created the Billye Meyer Distinguished Service Award in honor  
15 of her commitment to serving others; and

16 WHEREAS, A faithful member of the First United Methodist  
17 Church of Richardson, Ms. Meyer was admired for her ability to rally  
18 and organize congregants to accomplish church goals; and

19 WHEREAS, Billye Meyer uplifted countless lives with her  
20 compassion, generosity, and infectious enthusiasm, and although  
21 she will be deeply missed, her dedication to the needs of  
22 Richardson's residents serves as an inspiration and tremendous  
23 example to all those she left behind; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Billye Meyer and  
26 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her  
27 children, Lady Ellen Germond and Johnnye Summerson; to her

1 grandchildren, Major Robert Barr, James Barr, Archie Carnes, Amy  
2 Mack, Jacquie McCunn, Jim Vogel, Becky Smith, and Ashley Vogel; to  
3 her 18 great-grandchildren; and to her other relatives and many  
4 friends; and, be it further

5         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
6 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
7 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Billye  
8 Meyer.