

By: Macias

H.R. No. 976

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the passing of Lia  
2 Franke Scheffrahn of Boerne, who died on February 27, 2007, at the  
3 age of 82; and

4           WHEREAS, Born April 25, 1924, in Estonia in Eastern Europe,  
5 Lia Scheffrahn grew up learning of the promise of America and of the  
6 waves of immigrants who came to flee poverty and oppression; and

7           WHEREAS, She met the love of her life, Rudolf, during World  
8 War II, when he was stationed in her native land; and

9           WHEREAS, After the war the Scheffrahns found themselves  
10 living as refugees in Bavaria, where as a young wife and mother Mrs.  
11 Scheffrahn made the best of very difficult circumstances; and

12           WHEREAS, The Scheffrahns were among 52,000 refugees to apply  
13 for admission to America under the Displaced Persons Relocation  
14 Act; 90 percent of the applicants were turned down, but the  
15 Scheffrahns were accepted into the program; and

16           WHEREAS, In 1952, Lia Scheffrahn, along with her husband and  
17 five-year-old son, was among 1,300 immigrants aboard a ship  
18 steaming into New York Harbor past the Statue of Liberty; she and  
19 her husband became United States citizens on Valentine's Day 1958;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, Living first in New York and Indiana, where their  
22 second son was born, the Scheffrahns later settled in Southern  
23 California; Mr. Scheffrahn ran his own watch repair business and  
24 Mrs. Scheffrahn looked after the home and raised their sons, saving

1 every penny to ensure a college education for her two boys; and

2 WHEREAS, The Scheffrahn's retired to Boerne in 1984, where  
3 they participated in the Boerne Village Band, the oldest  
4 continuously organized German band outside of Germany; Mrs.  
5 Scheffrahn's skills as a homemaker were recognized when she won an  
6 Outstanding Woman award for homemaking in a *San Antonio*  
7 *Express-News* contest; her husband had secretly nominated her; and

8 WHEREAS, In a long, eventful, and sometimes difficult life,  
9 Lia Scheffrahn demonstrated her quiet courage, resourcefulness,  
10 and love for family over and over again; her triumph over adversity  
11 through uncomplaining hard work will remain an inspiration to all  
12 who knew her; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby honor the life of Lia Franke Scheffrahn and  
15 offer sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her  
16 husband, Rudolf Scheffrahn; to her sons, Karl and Rudolf; to her six  
17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and to her other  
18 relatives and friends; 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 Lia Franke  
22 Scheffrahn.