

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 1276

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends across the Lone Star State and  
2 nationwide are mourning the passing on March 15, 2007, of the  
3 prominent civic leader and volunteer, Martha Barnes Weisend of  
4 Dallas; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Ripley, Tennessee, on September 15, 1931,  
6 Mrs. Weisend was the daughter of John William and Ruby Cunningham  
7 Barnes; after graduating from Ripley High School, she began working  
8 as an accountant for the Wesson Oil and Snowdrift Company in  
9 Memphis, while furthering her education as a business student at  
10 Memphis State University; and

11 WHEREAS, She moved to Dallas in 1958, and on September 5,  
12 1965, she married Dallas businessman C. Frederick "Fritz" Weisend;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Weisend was active with the Republican Party  
15 from an early age; she volunteered for the Eisenhower presidential  
16 campaigns in 1952 and 1956, and again for the campaign of Barry  
17 Goldwater in 1964; she learned the art of political participation  
18 from the ground up, by walking door to door for the candidates and  
19 causes she believed in; and

20 WHEREAS, Her commitment and passion continued to find  
21 expression in countless political campaigns at the local, state,  
22 and national levels; in 1978 she was the Texas State Chairman for  
23 the gubernatorial campaign of Bill Clements, playing an  
24 instrumental role in electing the first Republican governor in

1 Texas in 100 years, and she was Governor Clements' state chairman  
2 again during his successful reelection campaign; and

3 WHEREAS, She continued to participate politically by serving  
4 as Texas State Chairman for both Reagan-Bush campaigns in the  
5 1980s, as well as serving as Vice Chair of the Dallas County  
6 Republican Party and as cochair of the Republican Host Committee  
7 for the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas; in recent  
8 years she continued her hard work, raising over \$1 million for the  
9 Bush-Cheney campaigns; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Weisend was equally passionate about her  
11 service to her community; a member of many corporate and civic  
12 association boards, she was a founder of the Dallas Blue  
13 Foundation, which provides assistance to the families of Dallas  
14 police officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of  
15 duty; as president and executive director of the foundation for  
16 over 15 years, she devoted her considerable expertise as a  
17 fundraiser to permanently funding the foundation's endowment,  
18 helping to raise \$14 million since 1992; and

19 WHEREAS, Martha Barnes Weisend will long be remembered by all  
20 who knew her for her boundless energy, her quiet authority, and her  
21 tireless political participation, and she leaves a legacy of  
22 service and achievement that will continue to benefit her community  
23 for years to come; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
25 Legislature hereby honor the memory of Martha Barnes Weisend and  
26 extend sincere condolences to her family: to her daughter, Melissa  
27 Ann Weisend; to her stepsons, Kerry Weisend and Michael Weisend; to

1 her stepdaughter, Patricia Weisend; to her sisters, Anne Bowie and  
2 Sue Gillespie; and to her other relatives and many friends; and, be  
3 it further

4           RESOLVED, That when the Texas House of Representatives  
5 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Martha Barnes Weisend.