

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 2805

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives joins the family
2 and friends of the Honorable Nancy Hanks McDonald in mourning the
3 loss of this esteemed former legislator, who passed away on May 14,
4 2007; and

5 WHEREAS, A seven-term state representative from El Paso, Mrs.
6 McDonald first served in the 1984 special session that enacted
7 major reforms relating to public education; she was elected to a
8 full term in the fall of 1984 and continued to serve through 1996,
9 when she declined to run again; and

10 WHEREAS, The only R.N. in the house when she first came to the
11 Capitol, Mrs. McDonald played a key role in securing funding for
12 health and human services programs, authored landmark child
13 immunization legislation, and advocated for AIDS patients; her
14 committee assignments included the vice chairmanship of the
15 appropriations committee, longtime service on the public health
16 committee, and service on such other committees as ways and means
17 and labor and employment relations; and

18 WHEREAS, Nancy McDonald was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky,
19 on October 21, 1934; she graduated from St. Thomas School of Nursing
20 in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1954, the same year she married Willis
21 Burr McDonald; and

22 WHEREAS, Over the course of the next two decades, Mrs.
23 McDonald graciously handled the responsibilities of an army
24 officer's wife while raising the couple's 10 children with "calm,

1 pragmatic wisdom"; in 1966 she and her family moved to El Paso,
2 which would become their home until she relocated to Austin with her
3 husband some 30 years later; and

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. McDonald resumed her nursing career in 1975 and
5 became active in the Texas Nurses Association, eventually serving
6 as president of the governmental affairs committee and forming a
7 TNA political action committee; she also held membership in the
8 National Organization for Women and took part in the 1980 march in
9 Washington, D.C., in support of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

10 WHEREAS, Nancy McDonald leaves a legacy of exemplary public
11 service, and she is remembered with deep affection and admiration
12 by all who were fortunate enough to share in the richness of her
13 life; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Nancy Hanks McDonald
16 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her
17 husband, Willis Burr McDonald; to her children, Chuck McDonald and
18 his wife, Donna, Chris McDonald and his wife, Cindy, Stephen
19 McDonald and his wife, Vicki, Greg McDonald and his wife, Laura,
20 Brendan McDonald and his wife, Cheryl, Mark McDonald and his wife,
21 Joyce, Mary McDonald and her husband, Kent, Nancy Siefken and her
22 husband, Mark, and Catherine Binswanger and her husband, Lewis; to
23 her sister, Betty Phillips; to her 27 grandchildren and three
24 great-grandchildren; and to her other relatives and friends; and,
25 be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of

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1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
2 Honorable Nancy Hanks McDonald.