

By: Smith of Harris

H.R. No. 2984

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The certain knowledge of a life well lived may
2 temper the profound sadness felt by all who loved Alma Loucille
3 Smartt Lawler of La Porte, who died on May 24, 2007, at the age of
4 82; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of the Lone Star State, "Lou" Lawler was
6 born on February 19, 1925, in Cisco; she married Colonel Jack D.
7 Lawler in 1946, and the pair together raised a loving family and
8 established a number of successful businesses; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Lawler was dedicated to helping others
10 throughout her life; after graduating from Cisco High School, she
11 moved with her parents to San Francisco, where she sold war bonds
12 and worked in a munitions factory; returning to Texas and settling
13 in La Porte, she shared her time with a variety of worthwhile
14 organizations, including the American Cancer Society, the American
15 Heart Association, the Salvation Army, the La Porte Civic Club, and
16 the local historical society; and

17 WHEREAS, A charter member of the Beta Sigma Phi Master
18 Chapter, this respected civic leader became the first female
19 president of the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce and the
20 first female director of the La Porte State Bank; she also served
21 her community as an election judge for more than 25 years and
22 enjoyed over a half-century of membership with First United
23 Methodist Church; and

24 WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, Mrs. Lawler worked with the

1 Houston International Seafarers' Center Board to build a center for
2 sailors entering the Port of Houston in La Porte; this notable
3 effort grew into a 5,000-square-foot home away from home that
4 served thousands of individuals from around the world; she also
5 received training as an ecumenical port chaplain and later earned a
6 medal of honor from the Pope for the ministry she established to
7 serve seafarers; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Lawler was also recognized with the Volunteer
9 of the Year award from the Neighborhood Center for La Porte, the
10 Steel Magnolia Distinction for southeast Harris County, and the Gus
11 Groos Humanitarian Award; and

12 WHEREAS, Lou Lawler had an immeasurable impact on the lives
13 of countless members of her community, and her compassion,
14 kindness, and strength will long be remembered by those whose lives
15 she so richly blessed with her friendship and involvement; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Alma Loucille Smartt
19 Lawler and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to
20 her daughter, Patsy Frey; to her son, Hal Lawler and his wife, Jan;
21 to her grandchildren, Kathryn and John Lawler; to her
22 step-grandchildren, Todd Solomen and Jeremy Frey; to Sonny Hilden,
23 whom she raised as a son; to her sister, Ruth Lewis; to her
24 sisters-in-law, Midge, Madge, and Vesta Smartt; and to her other
25 relatives and friends; and, 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 Alma
2 Loucille Smartt Lawler.