

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1220

In Memory
of
Alma Loucille Smartt Lawler

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of longtime civic leader Alma Loucille Smartt Lawler, who died May 24, 2007, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Lou Smartt was born on February 19, 1925, in Cisco, Texas; she graduated from Cisco High School in 1942 and moved with her family to San Francisco, where she began what would become a lifetime commitment to civic duty by selling war bonds and working in a munitions factory to help with the war effort; and

WHEREAS, She met the late Colonel Jack D. Lawler at a United Service Organizations dance; they were married on November 11, 1946; she and her husband moved to La Porte, Texas, in 1947 and ran successful restaurants and rental businesses that continue today; and

WHEREAS, Her many civic activities included working with the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the Salvation Army, the La Porte Civic Club, and the Historical Society; she was honored with such distinctions as the Gus Groos Humanitarian Award and the title of Volunteer of the Year for the Neighborhood Center of La Porte; and

WHEREAS, She was the first woman to serve as president of the La Porte/Bayshore Chamber of Commerce and the first woman to serve as a director for the La Porte State Bank; it was while she was chamber president that she became aware of the needs of seafarers who entered the Port of Houston at Barbour's Cut in La Porte; and

WHEREAS, She began working in the early 1980s with the Houston International Seafarers Center Board to build a Seafarers Center; the center grew to be a 5,000-square-foot facility that serves as a home-away-from-home for thousands of seafarers from around the world; she became an ecumenical port chaplain and attended a world conference of port chaplains in Rome; she was presented a medal of honor by the Pope for her ministry to seafarers; and

WHEREAS, She was a member of the First United Methodist Church for more than 50 years; she was a charter member of Beta Sigma Phi, and a life member of the PTO; she served as an election judge for more than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Lou Lawler will long be remembered for her dedication and civic leadership in the La Porte community; a devoted mother and grandmother, she leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by all who were privileged to share in her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Alma Loucille Smartt Lawler: her daughter, Patsy L. Frey; her son and daughter-in-law, Hal H. Lawler and Jan Lawler; her sister, Ruth Lewis; her grandchildren, Kathryn E. Lawler and John A. Lawler; her step-grandchildren, Todd Solomen and Jeremy Frey; and Sonny Hilden, whom she raised as a son; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Alma Loucille Smartt Lawler.

Jackson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 28, 2007, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate