

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 42

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close on June
2 23, 2009, with the death of Virginia Francis Webb Shahan of
3 Brackettville at the age of 93; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Del Rio to Elisha and Fanny Webb on February
5 15, 1916, the former Virginia Webb belonged to a proud West Texas
6 pioneer lineage; her family moved from their ranch in Edwards
7 County to another in Kinney County when she was 11, and she
8 continued to reside there for the rest of her life; as a child, she
9 delighted her father with her cowboy skills, and in her teen years,
10 she accompanied the owner of a neighboring ranch to horse sales to
11 put steeds through their paces; and

12 WHEREAS, While a student at Baylor University, she met James
13 T. "Happy" Shahan, and they married after graduation; the couple
14 raised their three children on the 18,000-acre ranch, which became
15 famous after the entrepreneurial Mr. Shahan successfully promoted
16 the location to producers of the John Wayne movie *The Alamo*; the
17 elaborate set built for the film in 1957 was subsequently rented for
18 numerous television shows and movies, among them *Gunsmoke* and
19 *Lonesome Dove*, and the Shahans eventually opened the Alamo Village
20 compound to tourists and for weddings, corporate retreats, and
21 other events; and

22 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shahan continued to operate the ranch after her
23 husband's death in 1996 and worked diligently in behalf of tourism
24 in the Lone Star State; most recently, at the invitation of the

1 Texas Historical Commission, she participated in the May 2009
2 ceremony launching the new *Texas Pecos Trail Region* guide; her
3 lifelong fascination with West Texas heritage continued to evolve,
4 and in her later years, she took up arrowhead hunting as a hobby,
5 taking enormous delight in finding superior specimens; and

6 WHEREAS, A woman of faith and integrity, Virginia Shahan
7 demonstrated true kindness to others and was especially devoted to
8 her family; although she will be deeply missed, those who were
9 privileged to know this remarkable Texan will forever remember her
10 with great admiration and affection; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
12 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
13 Virginia Francis Webb Shahan and extend sincere sympathy to the
14 members of her family: to her daughters, Jamie Rains and her
15 husband, Walt, and Tulisha Wardlaw and her husband, Hadley; to her
16 son, James Shahan II and his wife, Darlene; to her grandchildren,
17 Lashawn and Rick McIvor, Leisha and Tony Ashley, Dutch and Casey
18 Wardlaw, James and Jackie Rains, Shelley Rains, Jennifer and Seth
19 McIntosh, Will and Dee Shahan, and Dr. Jared Ty Shahan and Candace
20 Shahan; to her great-grandchildren, Webb and Walt Ashley, Jacob and
21 Ryleigh Rains, Hadley and Maverick McIvor, Cuatro and Cinco
22 Wardlaw, Hayden McIntosh, Regan and Addison Shahan, and Sienna and
23 Avery Shahan; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Virginia

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1 Francis Webb Shahan.