

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 77

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Longview lost an admired community
2 leader and renowned philanthropist with the passing of Rose Shipton
3 Pickens Kirkpatrick on January 14, 2009, at the age of 79; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to Eudora and Jack Pickens on August 22, 1929,
5 the former Rose Pickens was raised in her hometown of Little Rock,
6 Arkansas, where her father was a political pioneer and proprietor
7 of one of the state's largest general contracting firms; she
8 graduated from Little Rock High School and later attended Ogontz
9 Junior College in Philadelphia, which is now part of Pennsylvania
10 State University; she went on to marry Kenneth L. Kirkpatrick, of
11 Fort Smith, Arkansas, on September 6, 1952, in Little Rock; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick relocated to the Lone Star
13 State and lived in Lubbock and Dallas before settling in Longview in
14 1963; they became the owners of R&K Distributors, Inc., an
15 Anheuser-Busch distributor for the East Texas region, and were soon
16 supporting numerous charitable endeavors in Longview; the couple
17 hosted fund-raisers for local organizations in the "Michelob Room,"
18 a space in their company's warehouse that had been built for that
19 specific purpose; and

20 WHEREAS, Through the years, Mrs. Kirkpatrick devoted
21 countless hours to serving the community of Longview; among the
22 many organizations that benefited from her involvement are Trinity
23 Episcopal Church, the Gregg County Historical Museum, the Longview
24 Museum of Fine Arts, the Humane Society of Northeast Texas, the

1 Longview Community Theatre, and the Crisman School; and

2 WHEREAS, This devoted volunteer was also on the board of the
3 Good Shepherd Foundation, and she was a loyal supporter of the
4 Trinity School of Texas, contributing to the construction of two
5 buildings and to numerous other campus projects and events;
6 moreover, she was active in the Daughters of the American
7 Revolution and the Junior League chapters of every city she lived
8 in, and she was a founding member of the Longview Longfellows
9 Debutante Ball; her civic contributions earned her various
10 accolades, including the East Texas Heritage Award and the Honoree
11 of the Year designation by the American Heart Association, and she
12 was selected as the honorary chair of the Cattle Baron's Ball by the
13 local chapter of the American Cancer Society; and

14 WHEREAS, Rose Kirkpatrick was committed to ensuring a bright
15 future for the citizens of Longview, and she leaves behind an
16 extraordinary legacy of generosity and community engagement that
17 will forever be treasured by all those who were fortunate enough to
18 know her; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby pay tribute to the life of Rose Shipton Pickens Kirkpatrick
21 and extend sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her
22 daughters, Gail Elizabeth Pickens Kirkpatrick Martin and her
23 husband, John Carmichael Martin III, Rose Kimberly Kirkpatrick, and
24 Victoria Shipton Kirkpatrick and her husband, Bruce Bridges; to her
25 grandchildren, Victoria Kimberly Martin Bonnen and her husband,
26 State Representative Dennis Bonnen, Jaclyn Gail Pickens Martin
27 Abernathy and her husband, Clay Abernathy, John Kenneth Martin,

1 Alexandra Rose Cox, Ryan Kirkpatrick Cox, and Julia Shipton Cook;
2 to her great-grandchildren, David Jackson Carmichael Bonnen,
3 Gregory James Bonnen, and Jack Madison Abernathy; to her
4 sister-in-law, Gail Kirkpatrick Tompkins; to her brother-in-law,
5 Frederick Calhoun Kirkpatrick, Jr.; and to her other relatives and
6 friends; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
10 Rose Kirkpatrick.