

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 378

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Single mothers have played an important role in
2 Texas throughout the history of the Lone Star State and continue to
3 be a dynamic force in society; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1807, when Elizabeth Paxton Houston was left a
5 widow with nine children, she moved her brood west from Virginia to
6 a new home in Tennessee; the fifth son of this stalwart pioneer
7 woman, Sam Houston, became a Texas hero as a victor in battle, the
8 first president of the republic, and governor of the state; and

9 WHEREAS, Many prominent Texans have been raised by single
10 mothers; the multifaceted country music star and businessman Jimmy
11 Dean dedicated his autobiography and the hit song "I.O.U." to his
12 mother, Ruth Taylor Dean, whom he called "the toughest lady I've
13 ever known"; she supported her family as a barber and taught her
14 musical son to play piano; a more contemporary hit-maker, Norah
15 Jones, was raised by her mother, Susan, in the Dallas area; and

16 WHEREAS, News anchor Sam Donaldson, born after the death of
17 his father, was blessed with a strong, caring mother who taught him
18 to read and encouraged his interest in current events and higher
19 education; Chloe Donaldson ran the family's cotton and dairy farm
20 and drove her son 25 miles each way to and from school every day; and

21 WHEREAS, One of seven children, boxing great George Foreman
22 was raised by a single mother who worked two jobs, earning as little
23 as \$26 a week; other successful Lone Star athletes brought up by
24 single mothers include Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong and

1 Olympic medalist Sheryl Swoopes; Ms. Swoopes, who became a star of
2 the WNBA as a new single mother herself, shared her uplifting story
3 in the book *Bounce Back*; moreover, she created a foundation to
4 educate and empower young people; and

5 WHEREAS, The irrepressible Mary Kay Ash became a role model
6 for all women as the founder of Mary Kay Cosmetics; married at 17,
7 she raised three children on her own after her marriage ended; she
8 quit her job as a national training director when her employer
9 promoted her assistant over her at a higher salary, and in 1963, she
10 sank \$5,000 in savings into a venture that would become a
11 billion-dollar powerhouse; through her company, she helped
12 countless other women to follow their dreams; and

13 WHEREAS, For decades, researchers followed the conventional
14 wisdom that children from single-parent families are prone to
15 experience difficulties in later life; more recent studies,
16 however, have shown that the risk of a negative outcome correlates
17 more strongly with a lack of adequate socioeconomic resources than
18 with the absence of one parent; moreover, whether children are
19 raised by one or two parents, crucial factors include a harmonious
20 home environment and the quality of the relationship between parent
21 and child; and

22 WHEREAS, Mothers without partners juggle multiple roles and
23 responsibilities on a daily basis, but they meet their unique
24 challenges with selfless grace, wisdom, and love, demonstrating
25 strength that is an enduring legacy for their children and an
26 inspiration to all; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas

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1 Legislature hereby honor the single mothers of Texas and commend
2 them for their outstanding contributions.