

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 493

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Del Rio lost a pioneering political
2 leader with the passing of Dorothy Gillis Gurley-Cauthorn on
3 December 3, 2007, at the age of 84; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Del Rio on March 14, 1923, Dorothy Gillis
5 graduated from Del Rio High School in 1940; she earned a college
6 degree in 1944 from The University of Texas, where she was a member
7 of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gurley-Cauthorn hailed from a family that had
9 produced a number of elected officials, including her father, Val
10 Verde County Judge Roger Gillis; maintaining that tradition, she
11 ran for student offices while in college and later entered state
12 politics; in 1950, she became the first woman elected to represent
13 District 87 in the Texas House of Representatives, where she served
14 two terms before opting to conclude her tenure in 1955; after
15 leaving the legislature, she was chair of the local Democratic
16 Party for many years, and she had the satisfaction of seeing her
17 daughter, Susan Gurley McBee, win election as a state
18 representative; to date, these two women are the only
19 mother-daughter pair to serve in the Texas Legislature; and

20 WHEREAS, Accomplished in many fields of endeavor, Mrs.
21 Gurley-Cauthorn helped run her family's ranch and took a prominent
22 role in her community; her activities included participation in the
23 Fine Arts Club of Del Rio, the organization of story hour at Val
24 Verde County Library, and lifelong membership at Saint James

1 Episcopal Church; and

2 WHEREAS, Dorothy Gurley-Cauthorn established an admirable
3 record of service with her groundbreaking political career and
4 extensive civic involvement; although she is deeply missed, her
5 legacy will resonate in her community for years to come; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dorothy Gillis
9 Gurley-Cauthorn and that sincere sympathy be extended to the
10 members of her family: to her daughter, Susan Gurley McBee, and her
11 husband, Larry; to her son, Gillis Gurley, and his wife, Clara Dyer;
12 to her grandchildren, Jacqueline Susan Gurley, Jake Gillis Gurley,
13 and J. R. McBee and his wife, Missy Qualia; to her
14 great-grandchildren, Jack and Kate McBee; to her nieces, Nancy
15 Gillis Sobak and Patsy Gillis Hill; to her nephew, Roger Walter
16 Gillis; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dorothy
20 Gillis Gurley-Cauthorn.