

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 724

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close when Elsie
2 Townes Pressler of Houston died on February 12, 2008, at the age of
3 102; and

4 WHEREAS, A fifth-generation Texan, Elsie Townes was born in
5 Beaumont on March 11, 1905, and moved to the Bayou City in 1917 with
6 her family; she attended Randolph Macon Woman's College in
7 Lynchburg, Virginia, and The University of Texas at Austin, where
8 she was a member of Pi Beta Phi, the Mortar Board, and the Orange
9 Jackets; she graduated with the Class of 1927; and

10 WHEREAS, The following year, she married Herman P. Pressler,
11 Jr., and the couple shared 66 fulfilling years of marriage,
12 parenthood, world travel, and volunteerism until Mr. Pressler's
13 passing in 1995; they received the Distinguished Citizens Award
14 from Sheltering Arms in 1987; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Pressler was the granddaughter of John C.
16 Townes, the dean of the law school at The University of Texas at
17 Austin, and Judge C. C. Garrett, the first chief justice of the
18 First Court of Civil Appeals; the UT Law School building was named
19 for Mr. Townes and the Garrett-Townes Auditorium at South Texas
20 College of Law was named for both of her grandfathers; her father,
21 Edgar Townes, was a founder of the Humble Oil and Refining Company
22 and served as its first general counsel, while her husband, Herman
23 Pressler, Jr., was vice president and director of Exxon, USA, and
24 president of the Houston Bar Association; and

1 WHEREAS, Carrying on her family's legacy of service to their
2 fellow Texans, Mrs. Pressler was a member of Houston's first
3 Municipal Arts Committee and the president of the Junior League of
4 Houston, the Women's Auxiliary of the Houston Bar Association, the
5 River Oaks Garden Club, and the Harris County Heritage Society; she
6 served as the Houston group chair of the National Society of the
7 Colonial Dames of America and as a member of the John McKnitt
8 Alexander Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and
9 the Friends of Bayou Bend; she was also a founder and longtime
10 congregant of River Oaks Baptist Church; and

11 WHEREAS, Deeply admired for her graciousness and her zest for
12 life, Elsie Pressler inspired countless people with her many good
13 deeds, and she will forever hold a treasured place in their hearts;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Elsie Townes Pressler
17 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her
18 sons, Townes G. Pressler and Judge H. Paul Pressler III and his
19 wife, Nancy; to her grandchildren, Jean Pressler Visy and her
20 husband, Joe, Anne Pressler Csorba and her husband, Les, Terry
21 Pressler Smith and her husband, Tom, Molly Pressler Lamme and her
22 husband, Duncan, Townes G. Pressler, Jr., and his wife, Kathleen,
23 and H. Paul Pressler IV; to her 16 great-grandchildren; to her
24 sisters-in-law, Mrs. E. E. Townes, Jr., Mrs. Christopher G. Townes,
25 and Mrs. Howard R. Barr; and to her other relatives and friends;
26 and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Elsie
3 Townes Pressler.