

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 1028

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Victoria lost a cherished friend and
2 renowned philanthropist with the passing of Mary Katherine
3 Welhausen Borchers on February 28, 2009, at the age of 84; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Carl Clarence Welhausen and Mary
5 Elizabeth McBride Welhausen, the former Mary Katherine Welhausen
6 was born in Yoakum on August 10, 1924, into the family that founded
7 Tex Tan Leather Company, which eventually became a division of
8 Tandy Corporation, the company known today as RadioShack
9 Corporation; an honors graduate of Yoakum High School, she was
10 Queen of the Yoakum Tom-Tom Festival in 1946, and she earned a
11 bachelor's degree in business administration with honors from The
12 University of Texas at Austin, where she also took graduate courses
13 in personnel management; and

14 WHEREAS, After meeting in high school, she and Lieutenant
15 Charles Borchers were joined in matrimony in August 1947, following
16 his military service during World War II; the couple settled in
17 Victoria in 1957; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Borchers worked as an administrator at The
19 University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and later as a
20 personal business, investment, and family trust manager for more
21 than three decades; she was also a general partner, along with her
22 husband and daughters, in Borchers Southern Y Ranches; and

23 WHEREAS, Engaged in the community, Mrs. Borchers was
24 affiliated with numerous local organizations, including the

1 Victoria Regional Museum Association, the Victoria County
2 Historical Commission, the American Red Cross, and the Cultural
3 Council of Victoria, and she assisted with such projects as the
4 restoration of the Victoria County Courthouse; she was a member of
5 the Victoria 100 Club, the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs,
6 Daughters of the American Revolution, Club 20, Daughters of the
7 Republic of Texas, and many others; she also participated in the
8 Junior League of Victoria, and she received its "Sustainer of the
9 Year Award"; moreover, this esteemed Texan was recognized with the
10 Distinguished Citizen Award of Victoria in 2002; and

11 WHEREAS, Among the myriad organizations that benefited from
12 the support of Mrs. Borchers and her husband are the Victoria
13 Symphony, the Children's Discovery Museum, and the Victoria
14 Performing Arts Center, home of the Dr. Charles and Mary Katherine
15 Borchers Performance Hall; Mrs. Borchers further contributed to her
16 alma mater and a number of its institutions, including the McCombs
17 School of Business; she was a member of such groups as the
18 Ex-Students Association, the Chancellor's Council Executive
19 Committee, and the Longhorn Foundation, and she was named a Texas
20 Exes "Legend"; and

21 WHEREAS, Mary Katherine Borchers was an inspiration to all
22 who were fortunate enough to know her, and she leaves behind an
23 extraordinary legacy of compassion and goodwill that will not soon
24 be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mary Katherine
27 Welhausen Borchers and extend sincere sympathy to the members of

1 her family: to her husband of 61 years, Dr. Charles Lewis Borchers;
2 to her daughters, Mary Kay Borchers and Charla Borchers Leon and her
3 husband, Robert; to her brothers-in-law, William, Otto, and Marion
4 Borchers, and Don G. Kaspar; to her 12 nieces and nephews and 24
5 great-nieces and great-nephews; and to her other relatives and many
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 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mary
10 Katherine Welhausen Borchers.