

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 1076

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The untimely passing of Patricia Ann Matheny of
2 Austin on June 25, 2007, at the age of 56, brought a profoundly felt
3 loss to her family, to her friends and colleagues, and to the
4 residents of her community; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on December 19, 1950, the former Patricia Ann
6 Pianta grew up in Essex, Connecticut, and she went on to graduate
7 from Mercy High School in nearby Middletown; she earned a
8 bachelor's degree in education from Rivier College in Nashua, New
9 Hampshire, in 1972; she later met John Matheny in Stamford,
10 Connecticut, and the couple were joined in matrimony in 1977; Mrs.
11 Matheny taught at local schools and worked toward a master's degree
12 in counseling, which she attained from Fairfield University in
13 1980, and she also completed an internship at Yale University; in
14 1981, Mr. and Mrs. Matheny welcomed their first child, Colin, and
15 two years later, they were blessed with a daughter, Molly; and

16 WHEREAS, Due to her husband's profession, Mrs. Matheny and
17 her family relocated a number of times, and by 1984, they were
18 living in Dallas, where Mrs. Matheny taught elementary school;
19 having moved to Houston in 1988, she began working with teenagers
20 and substance abuse patients at a psychiatric facility, Stafford
21 Meadows Hospital; however, her passion for teaching children led
22 her to seek a position as an elementary school counselor with the
23 Katy Independent School District in 1991; eight years later, she
24 and her family relocated to Austin, and she obtained a similar

1 position within Round Rock ISD; employed at Fern Bluff Elementary
2 School for seven years, Mrs. Matheny garnered praise from her
3 students and their parents, as well as her fellow staff members, for
4 her compassion and professionalism and for being an anchor for the
5 school community during trying times; in February 2007, she
6 transferred to Lakeway Elementary School in Austin, and by that
7 time, she had dedicated 35 years to the field of education; and

8 WHEREAS, This devoted wife and mother took great pleasure in
9 spending time with her family and friends in the home she had
10 carefully decorated; she was a gourmet cook and an elegant
11 entertainer, and she loved collecting antiques; moreover, Mrs.
12 Matheny was a talented musician, and she sang with the Houston
13 Masterworks Chorus for several years as a first soprano; and

14 WHEREAS, An admired educator and a cherished friend, Patricia
15 Matheny touched the lives of countless individuals with her
16 kindness and generosity, and she leaves behind a legacy that will
17 forever be treasured by all those who were fortunate enough to know
18 her; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Patricia Ann Matheny
21 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her
22 husband, John Matheny; to her children, Colin and Molly Matheny; to
23 her parents, Arthur and Florence Pianta; to her siblings, Nancy
24 Liebman and Michael Pianta; and to her other relatives and many
25 friends; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of

H.R. No. 1076

1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Patricia
2 Ann Matheny.