

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 1078

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The untimely death of Debra Lynn Picha on June 25,
2 2007, at the age of 52, brought a tragic loss to Round Rock and to
3 the family and many friends of this beloved teacher; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Alvin and Dora Picha, Debbie Picha
5 was born in Bay City on May 18, 1955, and grew up in Brazoria, where
6 she enjoyed happy times with her large extended family and made many
7 lasting friendships; she attended West Columbia High School,
8 playing in the band and delighting her classmates with her
9 irrepressible sense of humor; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Picha earned her bachelor's degree in elementary
11 education from Texas State University in 1977 and moved to Houston,
12 beginning her career in the Cypress Fairbanks School District; on
13 July 1, 1989, she married Larry Hathorn in a ceremony in Brazoria
14 County, and the couple moved to the Austin area three years later;
15 she joined Fern Bluff Elementary School in Round Rock when it opened
16 in the fall of 1992 and won the hearts of children, parents, and
17 colleagues with her dedication, kindness, and effervescent
18 personality; and

19 WHEREAS, A naturally gifted teacher, Ms. Picha commanded the
20 attention of every child in her first-grade class, imparting her
21 own enthusiasm for learning; she worked tirelessly to ensure their
22 individual needs were met, and after a successful two-year battle
23 against cancer, she returned to education; Ms. Picha devoted untold
24 hours to preparation, determined to keep improving her classroom

1 skills despite her many years of experience; although she had a
2 penchant for accessorizing and was prone to dress fashionably, she
3 never let her impeccable attire stop her from having fun with her
4 pupils on the playground, and she cut an equally charming figure
5 when she appeared in camouflage fatigues on field day; and

6 WHEREAS, Debbie Picha had an immensely positive effect on the
7 world around her, setting countless children on the path to success
8 with her encouragement and firm, loving guidance; moreover, she
9 taught young and old alike to live life to the fullest, and those
10 who were privileged to know her will forever treasure memories of
11 her vibrant smile, ready wit, and selfless devotion to her calling;
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Debra Lynn Picha and
15 extend sincere sympathy to her many family members and host of
16 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 Debra Lynn
20 Picha.