

By: Taylor

H.R. No. 1217

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of Therese
2 Fitzgerald Deats of Dickinson, who died on March 18, 2009, at the
3 age of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, Therese Fitzgerald was born in Cleveland, Texas, on
5 February 9, 1920, to Ernest and Fannie Havard Fitzgerald; after
6 spending her early years on her grandparents' farm near Cleveland,
7 she also lived for a time in the Mojave Desert in California; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1935, Miss Fitzgerald moved to Dickinson, Texas,
9 with her family, and in 1937 she graduated from Dickinson High
10 School and married Malcolm Deats; Mr. and Mrs. Deats shared their
11 lives together for 47 years, until his death; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Deats worked at several local banks, including
13 Citizens State Bank in Dickinson and Bank of the Mainland in La
14 Marque; in the early 1970s, she started her own business, Deats
15 Flower Shop, and she later went on to run a shop with her husband;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, An active member of her community, Mrs. Deats
18 attended First United Methodist Church in Dickinson for 74 years,
19 where she was a teacher and superintendent of the Sunday school; she
20 was also a scout leader, a member of the PTA, and a founder of the
21 55-Plus organization; and

22 WHEREAS, Affectionately known to her friends as "Deatsie,"
23 she was a vivacious woman who found great pleasure in trying new
24 things at an age when many people are content to take it easy; after

1 retirement, she took a job selling programs at Gulf Greyhound Park,
2 and she began writing a column for the *Galveston County Daily News*,
3 "Dots by Deatsie"; she also played the tough-talking "Mama" of the
4 owners of an automobile dealership in a series of commercials that
5 ran on local television for nearly 20 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Therese Deats lived a caring and accomplished life,
7 and memories of many happy times spent in her company remain to
8 comfort all those who knew and loved her; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Therese Fitzgerald
11 Deats and extend sincere condolences to the members of her family:
12 to her son, Ernie Deats, and his wife, Kathy; to her daughter, Jane
13 Hayley, and her husband, Jimmy; to her grandchildren and their
14 spouses, Lori and Lynn Honeycutt, Jerry and Cindy Hayley, and Jason
15 Hayley; to her great-grandchildren, Colton Honeycutt, Catelyn
16 Honeycutt, Clay Honeycutt, Amanda Hayley, Abby Hayley, Allyson
17 Hayley, Zack Hayley, and Jacob Hayley; and to her other relatives
18 and friends; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Therese
22 Fitzgerald Deats.