

By: Woolley

H.R. No. 1334

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family, friends, and citizens across the Lone Star
2 State are mourning the loss of entrepreneur and philanthropist
3 Jeanette Epstein Oshman, who died on March 25, 2009, at the age of
4 98; and

5 WHEREAS, The former Jeanette Epstein was born in Poland to
6 Fanny and Jacob Epstein and emigrated with her family to the United
7 States in 1921; settling in Houston, she quickly learned English,
8 one of five languages that she spoke; and

9 WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, she went to work
10 for her uncle, Joe Levit, at Grocer Supply, which was where she
11 first encountered Jake Oshman; immediately smitten, she made a
12 beeline for Oshman's Sporting Goods to buy a pair of tennis shoes
13 and win the young man's heart; she and Mr. Oshman were wed in 1936,
14 and they shared a fulfilling marriage until his death in 1965;
15 fortunate enough to find love a second time, she remarried in 1971
16 and enjoyed nearly 25 years with Meyer "Bubba" Efron, until his
17 death in 1995; and

18 WHEREAS, At the time of her first husband's death, Mrs.
19 Oshman took over the management of Oshman's seven stores to ensure
20 their survival as a family-owned business; delegating day-to-day
21 operations to her son-in-law, Alvin Lubetkin, she became chair of
22 the board and took a leading role in expanding the company into a
23 successful chain of 220 stores; she was equally successful later in
24 life, when she became involved in real estate investment; and

1 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mrs. Oshman maintained friendships
2 with many local Oshman's employees, whom she shepherded through the
3 initial transition with regular visits to the stores; her friendly
4 yet determined style won their loyalty and later earned her the
5 nickname "the iron butterfly" from business associates; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Oshman was an extraordinarily generous woman,
7 supporting various Jewish organizations, helping to put a number of
8 people through school, and contributing to such worthwhile
9 institutions as Baylor College of Medicine, Holocaust Museum
10 Houston, the Museum of Fine Arts, Beren Academy, and the Baylor
11 Department of Molecular and Human Genetics; and

12 WHEREAS, This multifaceted woman approached all of her
13 endeavors with the same remarkable spirit, discipline, and strength
14 that characterized her leadership of her family business, and she
15 leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire others for many
16 years to come; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Jeanette Epstein
19 Oshman and extend sincere condolences to the members of her family:
20 to her daughters, Judy Margolis and her husband, Kenneth, and
21 Marilyn Oshman and her partner, Alvin Lubetkin; to her sister, Ruth
22 Freedman; to her grandchildren, Karen Desenberg, Gary Gerson and
23 his wife, Cindy, Andrew Lubetkin and his wife, Cindy, and Jay Gerson
24 and his wife, Celine; to her great-grandchildren, Jake, Max, and
25 Morgan Gerson, Ryder, Daily, and Hope Desenberg, and Alvin, Ava,
26 and Marilyn Lubetkin; and to her other relatives and friends; and,
27 be it further

H.R. No. 1334

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jeanette
4 Oshman.