

By: Castro

H.R. No. 1384

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The death of civic leader Fay Sinkin on March 4,
2 2009, at the age of 90, has deeply saddened her family, her friends,
3 and her many admirers throughout the San Antonio community and
4 beyond; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in New York City on March 24, 1918, the former
6 Fay Bloom graduated from Syracuse University; she was working at an
7 Arthur Murray Dance Studio when a friend from Texas set her up on a
8 blind date with a young San Antonio businessman named Bill Sinkin;
9 although she made a joke when he proposed marriage partway through
10 the evening, the couple exchanged wedding vows less than six months
11 later, on May 31, 1942; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Sinkin raised their two sons in San
13 Antonio and supported each other in myriad efforts to improve the
14 quality of life in their city; Mrs. Sinkin was particularly
15 concerned about public health, and on becoming president of the
16 League of Women Voters in 1947, she advocated for the hiring of a
17 city sanitary engineer to develop a sewer system; moreover, she
18 raised funds for the first citywide Mothers March on Polio,
19 organized the Visiting Nurse Association, and later became the
20 first woman to serve on the city's Board of Health; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1953, Mrs. Sinkin was named Woman of the Year by
22 the *San Antonio Express-News*; her many early accomplishments
23 included fund-raising for public television and becoming one of the
24 first two women to serve on a grand jury in Bexar County; she

1 participated in vital endeavors to further tolerance and diversity,
2 organizing educational outreaches, working with her husband to end
3 segregation in restaurants, and assisting the Johnson
4 administration in the recruitment of minority candidates for the
5 diplomatic service; and

6 WHEREAS, The threat of heavy development over the Edwards
7 Aquifer recharge zone in the early 1970s led Mrs. Sinkin to form the
8 Aquifer Protection Association, and she roused the community to
9 fight the first of many battles to ensure the safety and quality of
10 San Antonio's water supply; she was instrumental in obtaining the
11 nation's first Sole Source Aquifer designation under the Safe
12 Drinking Water Act of 1974, and she won election as the first female
13 board member of the Edwards Underground Water District; during her
14 six-year term, she successfully fought the controversial
15 Applewhite Reservoir project, advocated for conservation and a
16 regional water plan, introduced xeriscaping to the city, and
17 oversaw the institution of a water leak detection program; she
18 later formed the Edwards Aquifer Preservation Trust and pushed to
19 block overdevelopment on the recharge zone by acquiring ranchland,
20 playing a key role in the creation of Government Canyon State
21 Natural Area on 7,000 acres once slated for a vast housing tract;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Acknowledged as "the mother of aquifer protection,"
24 Mrs. Sinkin continued to devote her time and considerable energy to
25 this cause, working with the grassroots Smart Growth Coalition in
26 2002 to oppose construction of a PGA Village over the Edwards
27 Aquifer in north central Bexar County; as gracious and persuasive

1 as she was passionate, she helped the Save Our Aquifer Campaign
2 secure more than 100,000 signatures to call for a referendum
3 against the project; together, the Sinkins established the Fay and
4 William Sinkin Environmental Fund, which educates young people
5 about environmental issues; and

6 WHEREAS, Her remarkable achievements earned Mrs. Sinkin
7 numerous accolades; she was inducted into the San Antonio Women's
8 Celebration and Hall of Fame and received the Headline Award from
9 Women in Communication; the Medallion Natural Area was renamed the
10 Fay and William Sinkin Nature Preserve in 2009, and The University
11 of Texas at San Antonio maintains the William and Fay Sinkin Papers
12 in its archives, documenting the importance of their individual and
13 joint contributions to civic life; and

14 WHEREAS, Ahead of her time in many ways, Fay Sinkin served as
15 a steward of the environment and an advocate for social justice; her
16 endeavors immeasurably enhanced the world around her, and she
17 inspired countless others to work for the causes in which they
18 believe and promote positive change; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Fay Sinkin and extend
21 sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her husband of 66
22 years, William Sinkin; to her sons, Richard and Lanny; to her
23 granddaughters, Patti Leigh, Katherine Hancock, and Amelia Sinkin;
24 to her three great-grandchildren, Justin and Jessica Hancock and
25 Jennifer Leigh; and to the other relatives and host of friends of
26 this esteemed Texan; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Fay Sinkin.