

By: Eiland

H.R. No. 1863

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Patricia Burns has earned the 16th annual Steel
2 Oleander Award, presented by the Galveston Historical Foundation to
3 an outstanding local woman whose community service reflects the
4 ideals and independent spirit of early citizen Bettie Brown; and

5 WHEREAS, A valued member of the foundation, Pat Burns has
6 served on the board of directors and as its president; thanks in
7 part to her leadership, the group purchased the Menard House, the
8 city's oldest residence, in an effort to stabilize the important
9 landmark and ultimately find a private buyer to restore it; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Burns was captivated by the potential of the
11 house, and in 1994 she and her husband, Fred, elected to buy the
12 legendary structure; after spending a year restoring it and
13 furnishing it with a museum-quality collection of federal period
14 antiques, the couple generously donated the house to the Galveston
15 Historical Foundation, which has used it as a museum, an event
16 venue, and a residence for visiting scholars and special guests;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Thanks to her dedicated efforts, the Menard House
19 has earned wide acclaim, winning first place in the annual
20 preservation awards given by the National Trust for Historic
21 Preservation and a place on the National Register of Historic
22 Places; and

23 WHEREAS, Mrs. Burns and her husband have also restored the
24 1856 Hutchings House, and they have purchased two additional

1 buildings that they plan to renovate; and

2 WHEREAS, Active in a number of worthwhile causes, Mrs. Burns
3 has been a member of The University of Texas Medical Branch
4 Development Board and served on the boards of the Methodist
5 Retirement Communities of Texas, the Moody Memorial First United
6 Methodist Church, and the Society for the Performing Arts in
7 Houston; she has also been president of the boards of the Edgewater
8 Retirement Community of Galveston and of the Grand 1894 Opera
9 House; along with her husband, she is a past cochair of the National
10 Trust Council in Washington, D.C.; and

11 WHEREAS, Pat Burns has helped ensure that future generations
12 will have a tangible connection with the history of this great
13 state, and she is truly deserving of special recognition; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
16 Legislature hereby congratulate Patricia Burns on receiving the
17 2009 Steel Oleander Award from the Galveston Historical Foundation
18 and commend her for her many contributions to her community, state,
19 and nation; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Mrs. Burns as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 House of Representatives.