

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 2082

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends will long cherish their memories
2 of Penny Payte McLeaish of McAllen, who passed away on April 23,
3 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Peter and Virginia Payte and sister
5 of Virginia Payte Steib, the former Penny Payte moved to the Rio
6 Grande Valley in 1946 with her family and graduated from Pharr-San
7 Juan-Alamo High School in 1953; and

8 WHEREAS, After two years at The University of Texas at
9 Austin, she began her teaching career at Sharyland High School
10 while attending Pan American College, from which she graduated with
11 honors in 1958; over the course of more than four decades as an
12 educator, Mrs. McLeaish taught senior English and American history
13 and government, and she coached state championship teams in debate
14 and informative and persuasive speaking as well as district and
15 regional championship teams in current issues; and

16 WHEREAS, Named a Shining Star by the Hidalgo County Zonta
17 Club, Teacher of the Year for the Sharyland Independent School
18 District, and a Distinguished UT Pan American Alumnus, she also
19 received 1 of 10 statewide Denius-UIL Sponsor Excellence Awards;
20 moreover, in 1999, she was honored with the naming of the Penny
21 Payte McLeaish Learning Resource Center; and

22 WHEREAS, Mrs. McLeaish and her husband, Robert, shared a
23 fulfilling marriage that spanned more than half a century, and
24 together they welcomed into their family five children, Laurel,

1 Heather, Janet, Robert, and Jeremy; and

2 WHEREAS, Not only an esteemed educator but a citizen fully
3 engaged in her community, Mrs. McLeaish made time for involvement
4 with the League of Women Voters of Hidalgo County and the Reviewer's
5 Guild of McAllen, both of which she served as president, and with
6 the Democratic party; she was also a valued member of Our Lady of
7 Sorrows Catholic Church; and

8 WHEREAS, Penny McLeaish led a life of service and generosity
9 that touched many other individuals, and she will long be
10 remembered with admiration and affection by all who were fortunate
11 enough to know her; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
13 Legislature hereby honor the memory of Penny Payte McLeaish and
14 extend sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her
15 husband, Robert McLeaish; to her children and their spouses, Laurel
16 McLeaish, Heather Butler and her husband, Bill, and Janet Robinson
17 and her husband, Dave Swain; to her grandchildren, Jesse and
18 Brittany Robinson; to her brothers-in-law, Mickey Steib and Jim
19 McLeaish; to her nephew, David Steib; and to her many other
20 relatives and friends; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Penny
24 McLeaish.