

By: Geren

H.R. No. 2286

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, After more than 36 years of outstanding service with
2 the Texas House of Representatives, esteemed Capitol staffer Janice
3 Vastine is retiring in July 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, Though she was born in Mississippi and grew up in
5 Louisiana, Ms. Vastine has embraced the Lone Star State as her own,
6 a fact made evident by her notable career in state government; her
7 tenure began in 1967 with the Welfare Department in the John H.
8 Reagan Building; her first employment with the Texas House came two
9 years later, when she worked for Representatives Maurice Angly,
10 Jr., and John Poerner during the 61st Legislative Session; although
11 she was the busy mother of three young children at the time, she
12 stayed with her employers through the special sessions that summer
13 before transferring to the Texas Attorney General's Office in the
14 fall; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Vastine returned to the legislature briefly
16 during her three-year tenure with Attorney General Crawford Martin,
17 responding to a call for help during a period of transition taking
18 place in the speaker's office; and

19 WHEREAS, On January 8, 1973, she made the house her permanent
20 workplace, and since that time, she has distinguished herself in
21 each of the capacities in which she has served; in addition to
22 working for the Committee on House Administration and the speaker's
23 office, she has been employed as house purchaser, director of
24 finance, and manager of the Business Correspondence, Personnel and

1 Staff Development, and Payroll and Personnel Departments;
2 moreover, Ms. Vastine has been responsible for the Records
3 Retention Schedule and the House Policies and Procedures Manual,
4 and she has served as the coordinator of the Americans with
5 Disabilities Act; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout her decades of service, she has performed
7 her duties with the enthusiasm of one who enjoys her job to the
8 fullest; she has loved the ever-changing issues, the people, the
9 politics, and the workplace itself, many nights leaving by a
10 specific exit to catch the best view of the Capitol in all its
11 glory; and

12 WHEREAS, While claiming for years she'd have to be forcibly
13 removed from the building before she'd give up her job, Ms. Vastine
14 had seriously underestimated the magnetic pull of her
15 grandchildren, whose undeniable adoration of their grandmother
16 will soon render her retirement a fait accompli; with her state
17 employment coming to an end, she is looking forward to spending more
18 time with her family, including her children and their spouses,
19 Pamela and Blake Turner, Victoria and Michael Folger, and Bo and
20 Florence Vastine, and most especially her eight beautiful
21 grandchildren, Jake, Austin, Meaghan, Molly, Aidan, Kaylee,
22 Sophie, and Oliver; her new status as a woman of leisure will also
23 allow Ms. Vastine time to pursue her favorite hobbies, which
24 include finding special antiques for herself and her loved ones and
25 traveling, particularly in Western Europe during the Christmas
26 markets, where she is always on the lookout for German Christmas
27 pyramids; and

1 WHEREAS, Janice Vastine is an admired and beloved member of
2 the close-knit legislative community who has served her fellow
3 citizens and their elected public officials in the house with great
4 skill, dedication, and diligence for nearly four decades, and it is
5 a pleasure to honor her and pay tribute to her remarkable career;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
8 Legislature hereby congratulate Janice Vastine on her retirement
9 from the Texas House of Representatives and extend to her sincere
10 best wishes for continued happiness in all of her endeavors; and, be
11 it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Ms. Vastine as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.