

By: Anderson

H.R. No. 2869

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Waco lost a beloved resident and admired
2 community leader with the passing of Frances Sturgis on May 22,
3 2009, at the age of 93; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Tennessee, Mrs. Sturgis grew up in
5 Memphis and attended Mars Hill College before transferring to
6 Baylor University to earn degrees in English and education; she met
7 Carroll Sturgis while at Baylor and married him in 1937; the couple,
8 who would go on to share 64 years together, made their home in Waco,
9 and Mrs. Sturgis lovingly raised their children, Elinor and
10 Carroll, while substitute teaching and participating in a number of
11 civic organizations; among the many offices she held were president
12 of the Junior League of Waco, the YWCA, and the Waco Literary Club
13 and chair of the Art Center board of trustees, the Brazos River
14 Festival, and the Women's Division of the United Way; she also
15 served on the Historic Waco Foundation board and the Waco City
16 Council; and

17 WHEREAS, Later in life, Mrs. Sturgis joined the environmental
18 task force of the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce and became
19 founding chair of Keep Waco Beautiful, and her passion for
20 enhancing the physical landscape of her city would define her
21 remaining years; under her leadership, the staff and more than
22 11,000 volunteers of the organization initiated over 100
23 environmental and beautification projects in the community; in
24 addition to her efforts to create Art Center Waco, Miss Nellie's

1 Pretty Place, and Heritage Square, Mrs. Sturgis is credited with
2 transforming the once-overgrown banks of the Brazos into the
3 inviting community gathering place that is Indian Spring Park, and
4 this initiative is cited as a turning point in the redevelopment of
5 downtown Waco; and

6 WHEREAS, Her outstanding contributions to the beautification
7 of her community earned Mrs. Sturgis a Citation of Honor from the
8 Texas Society of Architects and the Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Award
9 from Keep America Beautiful and she and her husband were recognized
10 with the naming of the Carroll and Frances Sturgis Fountain in front
11 of City Hall; even more important than winning her many
12 well-deserved honors, her work demonstrated that determination and
13 hard work can realize the wonders conceived by imagination; and

14 WHEREAS, Dedicated to improving the world around her, Frances
15 Sturgis truly made a positive difference in the lives of her fellow
16 Waco residents; although this gracious and generous woman will be
17 deeply missed, the results of her leadership and vision will
18 continue to be enjoyed for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Frances Sturgis and
21 extend deepest sympathy to her children, Elinor Davis and her
22 husband, J. P., and Carroll W. Sturgis, Jr., and his wife, Lois; to
23 her grandchildren, Laura Sturgis Patterson and her husband, Joel,
24 Carroll W. Sturgis III, Diana Davis Smith and her husband, Tim, Fran
25 Sturgis Lucero and her husband, Horacio, John A. Davis, Danae
26 Sturgis, and Hunter Sturgis; to her nine great-grandchildren; to
27 her brother-in-law, J. Harry Jeanes; to her nephew, Sheridan

1 Cavitt; and to her other relatives and many friends; and, be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
5 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Frances
6 Sturgis.