

1 she launched Mary Kay Cosmetics; within two years, the company's
2 wholesale sales had reached almost \$1 million; in 2006, the company
3 recorded \$2.25 billion in wholesale sales and had an independent
4 sales force of more than 1.7 million beauty consultants in over 30
5 markets around the world; and

6 WHEREAS, Powerfully influenced by her mother's struggle to
7 support her family and by her own experience of gender
8 discrimination, Mary Kay Ash intended for her company to provide
9 women with unlimited opportunity for personal and financial
10 success, and since its founding, Mary Kay Cosmetics has continued
11 to reflect that goal; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Mrs. Ash showed others how to
13 give; a generous and strong woman, she believed in putting God
14 first, and she believed that with praise and encouragement, anyone
15 could succeed; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1996, Mrs. Ash established the Mary Kay Ash
17 Charitable Foundation for the purpose of funding research on the
18 leading cancers affecting women; today the foundation also supports
19 efforts to prevent violence against women and to help women who have
20 been victims of abuse; every October, the foundation observes
21 National Domestic Violence Awareness Month by awarding grants to
22 deserving women's shelters across the country; in 2008, the
23 foundation awarded \$20,000 grants to more than 150 shelters; and

24 WHEREAS, A phenomenally talented lady who led by example,
25 Mrs. Ash authored an autobiography, a motivational book, and a
26 volume about management, all of which became best-sellers; and

27 WHEREAS, The recipient of myriad accolades, Mary Kay Ash was

1 named the Most Outstanding Woman in Business in the 20th Century by
2 Lifetime Television and was chosen as one of the 25 most influential
3 business leaders of the last 25 years by PBS and the Wharton School
4 of the University of Pennsylvania in 2004; she was elected to the
5 Business Hall of Fame by *Fortune* magazine and was designated a
6 Horatio Alger Distinguished American Citizen; Mary Kay Cosmetics
7 has been ranked by *Fortune* magazine as one of the 100 best companies
8 to work for in America and as one of the 10 best companies for women;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mary Kay Ash passed away on November 22, 2001,
11 having achieved the pinnacle of success and having established a
12 legacy that will continue to provide opportunity and hope for women
13 for years to come; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby designate May 12, 2009, as Mary Kay Ash Day in the State of
16 Texas.