

By: Darby

H.R. No. 41

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Mary Ruth Duke Loika of Austin on June 1, 2011, at the age
3 of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Nan and William Duke, the former
5 Mary Duke was born on February 14, 1925, in the community of Bethel;
6 she graduated from Ballinger High School, where she was on the
7 basketball, tennis, and volleyball teams, and she earned her
8 bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons University; she went on to
9 have a rewarding career in elementary education that spanned 34
10 years and included tenures in San Angelo, Ballinger, Rowena, and
11 Zapata; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Loika enjoyed more than four decades of
13 marriage with her beloved husband, Eugene Julius "E. J." Loika,
14 before his passing; they were both talented musicians, and they led
15 an orchestra that toured the German and Czech dance halls of West
16 Texas, with her on stand-up bass and him on clarinet; Mrs. Loika was
17 also a skilled pianist, and she shared her talents with the Bethel
18 and Ballinger Baptist Churches; and

19 WHEREAS, Above all else, Mrs. Loika was devoted to her
20 family; the mother of four children, Jeanie, John, Grace, and
21 Betty, she was further blessed with six grandchildren; each year,
22 her loved ones looked forward with great anticipation to her annual
23 Christmas Eve party, which featured homemade chili, tamales, and
24 eggnog, musical entertainment, and a visit from Santa Claus; and

1 WHEREAS, Those fortunate enough to have known Mary Loika will
2 remember the way she touched their lives with her warmth and
3 generosity, and she will forever hold a treasured place in their
4 hearts; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
6 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
7 Mary Ruth Duke Loika and extend deepest sympathy to the members of
8 her family: to her children, Jeanie Coffey, John Loika and his wife,
9 Liz, Grace Kelley and her husband, David, and Betty Rice and her
10 husband, Rell; to her grandchildren, Beth, Rich, Sophie,
11 Nancigayle, Julia, and Trevor; and to her other relatives and many
12 friends; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mary Ruth
16 Duke Loika.