

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Shirley Bird Perry, whose association with The  
2 University of Texas at Austin spanned six decades and who made an  
3 incalculable contribution both to the university and to the UT  
4 System, passed away on May 4, 2011, at the age of 74; and

5           WHEREAS, A fifth-generation Texan, Mrs. Perry was born to  
6 Homer and Laura Stevenson Bird near Stockdale in 1936; she arrived  
7 at UT as a freshman in 1954, and though the campus was vastly larger  
8 than the small-town high school she had attended, she thrived on the  
9 Forty Acres; while an undergraduate, she served on the Texas Union  
10 Board of Directors and was tapped for membership in the Orange  
11 Jackets and Mortar Board; her senior year, she was named Most  
12 Outstanding Woman Student by the Dads' Association; and

13           WHEREAS, After graduating with a degree in education in 1958,  
14 Mrs. Perry worked as program director for the Texas Union before  
15 moving to California, where she found a teaching position; a year in  
16 the classroom with seventh-graders quickly persuaded her that her  
17 future lay elsewhere, and she returned as program director of the  
18 Texas Union in 1960; over the next decade, she focused on providing  
19 a diverse array of programs for UT students and organized  
20 appearances by such figures as Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert  
21 Kennedy, and Marianne Moore, while also earning a master's degree  
22 in educational psychology from UT in 1967; she became director of  
23 the union in 1972; and

24           WHEREAS, During her time there, Mrs. Perry played an active

1 role in the Association of College Unions--International, becoming  
2 the first woman to be elected to the group's executive committee and  
3 the first woman to serve as ACUI president; in 1976 she left the  
4 university for a brief period to serve as coordinator for ACUI  
5 educational programs and services; and

6 WHEREAS, Shirley Bird Perry returned to The University of  
7 Texas in 1979, when Dr. Peter Flawn named her assistant to the  
8 president and coordinator of the university's centennial  
9 observance; her new responsibilities included overseeing the  
10 activities of the Centennial Commission, a series of commemorative  
11 events, and a capital campaign that substantially augmented faculty  
12 endowments and the funds for lectureships and scholarships; in 1981  
13 she was promoted to vice president, and in 1983, the culminating  
14 year of the centennial celebration, she became vice president for  
15 development and community relations; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Perry continued to serve in that capacity under  
17 Dr. William Cunningham, who followed Dr. Flawn as university  
18 president in 1985; when Dr. Cunningham stepped down in 1992 to  
19 become chancellor of the UT System, he was loathe to lose such a  
20 priceless asset and persuaded Mrs. Perry to accompany him, naming  
21 her vice chancellor for development and external relations; her  
22 duties with the UT System included directing fund-raising  
23 operations, public affairs programs, the management of estates and  
24 trusts, and event planning, among other activities; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2004, Mrs. Perry resigned her office as vice  
26 chancellor to rejoin the administration at the university,  
27 accepting a position as senior vice president; in addition to

1 overseeing the fund-raising efforts of the UT president and  
2 coordinating his visits to communities around the state, she worked  
3 with the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History to more fully  
4 document the history of the university she loved so well; and

5       WHEREAS, Honored repeatedly throughout her career, Shirley  
6 Bird Perry received a Top Hand Award and a Distinguished Alumnus  
7 Award from the Texas Exes in 1984 and 2005, respectively, an Award  
8 of Distinction from the UT Parents' Association in 1992, and a  
9 Presidential Citation, the highest recognition conferred by The  
10 University of Texas, for 2010; in addition, the Texas Union has  
11 created the Shirley Bird Perry Leadership Award to salute  
12 outstanding students, and the UT presidents with whom she served  
13 have established the Shirley Bird Perry Endowment Fund for  
14 University History; Mrs. Perry also received accolades for her work  
15 from the Association of College Unions--International, the Council  
16 for the Advancement and Support of Education, and the National  
17 Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges; and

18       WHEREAS, Shirley Bird was married to Sam R. Perry, an equally  
19 fervent UT alum and an Austin attorney, in 1963, and they shared a  
20 devoted union until her passing; and

21       WHEREAS, To her consummate skills as an administrator, Mrs.  
22 Perry added unfailing kindness, unerring instincts, inexhaustible  
23 energy, and a matchless knowledge of the university, its history,  
24 and its inner workings; over the years, her endeavors helped to  
25 build the foundation on which the reputation of the university  
26 rests, and her wise counsel informed myriad decisions by university  
27 and system leaders; she was, in the words of one, "the caretaker for

1 UT's soul," and she will be deeply and sorely missed; now,  
2 therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
4 hereby pay tribute to the life of Shirley Bird Perry and extend  
5 sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her husband, Sam  
6 R. Perry; to her sisters and brother-in-law, Mary Jane and Errol  
7 Jonsson, Virginia Bird Davis, and Patsy Bird Weber; to her nephew,  
8 Charles Cotter; to her great-nephews, Jake and Trevor Cotter; to  
9 her cousin, Betty Bird; to her sisters-in-law, Polly Perry-Vincent  
10 and her sons, Blair and Scott Franklin, and their families, and  
11 Jenny Kay Kubiak and her husband, L. B. Kubiak, and their children,  
12 Lindsay and Logan; and to her other relatives and many friends; and,  
13 be it further

14       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
16 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
17 Shirley Bird Perry.

Branch  
Howard of Travis

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 155 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 11, 2011.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 155 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the Senate on May 11, 2011.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor