

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A life rich in family, faith, and friendship drew to  
2 a close with the passing of Willie Belle Porter of Longview on  
3 October 24, 2010, at the age of 91; and

4           WHEREAS, The ninth child of William and Laura Pettey, the  
5 former Willie Belle Pettey was born in Mahl on November 15, 1918;  
6 she was joined in matrimony to Madison Jones Porter, and they became  
7 the parents of three daughters, Diane, Suzanne, and Jane Ellis; and

8           WHEREAS, In 1959, Mr. Porter's untimely death left  
9 Mrs. Porter to raise her little girls on her own; her motto was "if  
10 there's a will, there's a way," and she maintained a warm and  
11 welcoming household while working as a secretary for the Longview  
12 Independent School District and serving as president of the  
13 Longview Secretaries Association; she retired from the district  
14 after 27 years of dedicated service; and

15           WHEREAS, Mrs. Porter was beloved for her kindness and  
16 hospitality; she was a valued member of First Baptist Church for  
17 more than six decades, and she found special fulfillment in her  
18 Bible Club; with a green thumb and a passion for flowers, she also  
19 belonged to the Camellia Garden Club and carefully tended  
20 spectacular azaleas, hydrangeas, and camellias; in addition, this  
21 gracious lady was known for her skill in duplicate bridge and  
22 demonstrated a sense of style in the elegant attire she chose for  
23 every occasion; and

24           WHEREAS, Devoted to her grandchildren, Mrs. Porter kept

1 plenty of games and crafts to amuse them on their visits, although  
2 any activity with "Granny" was bound to be great fun; she adored  
3 taking them shopping or on other outings, and her enthusiasm and  
4 creativity helped them develop their imaginations; and

5 WHEREAS, Willie Belle Porter brought joy to all who were  
6 privileged to know her, and her shining example of resilience,  
7 generosity, and devotion will forever remain an inspiration to  
8 those she leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Willie Belle Porter  
11 and that sincere condolences be extended to the members of her  
12 family: to her daughters, Diane Patrick and her husband, Ned,  
13 Suzanne Gordon and her husband, Pete, and Jane Ellis Statton; to her  
14 grandchildren, Craig Patrick, Claire Casteel, Edwin, Todd, and Chad  
15 Gordon, and Tori and Madison Statton; to her great-grandchildren,  
16 Garrett, Drake, and Wren Casteel, Stella and Mia Patrick, and  
17 Choochy, Jackson, Paul, Katie, Noah, Finneas, Jillian, Benjamin,  
18 and Fyetka Gordon; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be  
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House  
22 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in the memory of  
23 Willie Belle Porter.

Patrick

H.R. No. 144

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 144 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on February 24, 2011.

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Chief Clerk of the House