

By: Patrick

H.R. No. 409

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The city of Arlington lost an admired civic leader  
2 with the death of its longtime first lady, Anna Waynette  
3 Vandergriff, on July 4, 2009, at the age of 82; and

4           WHEREAS, An Arlington native, the former Anna Waynette Smith  
5 was born on June 12, 1927, to Gladys Parker Smith and Thomas Wayne  
6 Smith; her interest in music began early in life, and as a young  
7 woman she directed the Arlington High School choir in University  
8 Interscholastic League competitions and played the organ at local  
9 churches; after graduating, she earned an associate's degree from  
10 The University of Texas at Arlington and served as secretary to the  
11 chair of the fine arts department; she subsequently received a  
12 scholarship to Texas Christian University, where she worked as a  
13 piano instructor and accompanist while studying piano and flute;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, This engaging Texan won the heart of classmate Tom  
16 Vandergriff while singing "Moonlight Becomes You" at an Arlington  
17 High School assembly, and the couple went on to marry on March 19,  
18 1949, in a ceremony at First Methodist Church; they later became the  
19 parents of five children, Vanessa, Victor, Valerie, Viveca, and  
20 Vaughn, and Mrs. Vandergriff raised the couple's children to share  
21 her passion for the arts; she eventually welcomed five  
22 grandchildren into the family as well and took great pleasure in  
23 watching them grow up; and

24           WHEREAS, While meeting the needs of her family, Mrs.

1 Vandergriff also worked tirelessly in behalf of the greater good;  
2 equally committed to a life of public service, she supported her  
3 husband in his role as president of the chamber of commerce, as the  
4 13-term mayor of Arlington, as a United States congressman, and as a  
5 Tarrant County judge even as she undertook such endeavors as  
6 helping to organize the city's first community concert series and  
7 serving on the board of the Dance Theatre of Arlington; with energy  
8 and enthusiasm, she further benefited a number of other  
9 organizations, including the Arlington Junior League, the Women's  
10 Shelter, and the Arlington Newcomers Club as an advisory board  
11 member, and chaired the city's first Mothers' March on Polio for the  
12 March of Dimes; moreover, she hosted numerous open houses to raise  
13 funds for cultural and charitable organizations and chaired the UTA  
14 National Alumni Association fund drive in 1984; and

15 WHEREAS, Anna Waynette Vandergriff was a pillar of her  
16 community and brought joy to many through her caring and fun-loving  
17 personality; those who were privileged to know her will forever  
18 treasure their memories of her dedication to her family, her  
19 friends, and her hometown; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Anna Waynette  
22 Vandergriff and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her  
23 family: to her husband of 60 years, Tom Vandergriff; to her  
24 children, Victor Vandergriff, Vanessa Watters, Valerie Kelton, and  
25 Viveca Vandergriff; to her grandchildren; and to her other  
26 relatives and friends; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Anna  
3 Waynette Vandergriff.