

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 846

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the  
2 passing of admired Starr County educator and civic leader Miriam  
3 Smith Vale on February 11, 2011, at the age of 104; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Mattie Louise Edwards and Samuel  
5 Richard Smith, the former Miriam Smith was born in Lindale in Smith  
6 County on May 23, 1906; she graduated from Lindale High School and  
7 went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's University;  
8 after moving to Rio Grande City for a teaching position, she met  
9 Arnold J. Vale, and they married on February 19, 1930, in Havana,  
10 Texas; over the course of the couple's six decades together,  
11 Mrs. Vale supported her husband in all his professional endeavors,  
12 including his 16 years of service in the Texas House of  
13 Representatives; and

14 WHEREAS, The Vales became the parents of three sons, Arnold,  
15 John, and Samuel, and Mrs. Vale continued her distinguished career  
16 as a teacher and dietitian, working in La Grulla, La Joya, Rio  
17 Grande City, and Roma until her retirement in 1971; she often joked  
18 that she was a feminist before the word was invented, and, as one of  
19 the few college-educated women of her generation, she mentored  
20 other women seeking to balance professional lives and motherhood;  
21 moreover, while encouraging others to give back to their  
22 communities, she set a shining example of service; and

23 WHEREAS, A lifetime member of the General Federation of  
24 Women's Clubs, Mrs. Vale was associated with that organization for

1 80 years; she was a charter member of the Pan American Round Table,  
2 the Starr County Retired Teachers Association, and the Starr County  
3 Historical Society; during her 43 years of service on the Starr  
4 County Historical Commission, she served for four years as chair,  
5 and she helped organize the Starr County Historical Foundation and  
6 served as its chair for the rest of her lifetime; in addition, she  
7 was a member of the Texas Democratic Party Executive Committee for  
8 10 years; and

9       WHEREAS, This avid student of history and genealogy was a  
10 member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and of the  
11 National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century; in her late 90s, she  
12 published a book entitled *Eight Generations of Vale-Sanchez*, about  
13 her husband's family, and held a book signing at the historic La  
14 Borde House Hotel; and

15       WHEREAS, Through her commitment to education and to her  
16 community, Miriam Vale touched many lives, and her kindness,  
17 generosity, and dedication will remain a lasting source of  
18 inspiration to those who were fortunate enough to know her; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Miriam Smith Vale  
22 and extend sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her  
23 son, Samuel Franklin Vale, and his wife, Linda; to her  
24 grandchildren, Mia Miriam Vale McNutt and her husband, Tom, Juanita  
25 Eduarda Vale, Robert Arthur Vale and his wife, Cynthia, and  
26 Jennifer Vale Ortiz and her husband, Dr. Juan Manuel; to her  
27 great-grandchildren, Luis Enrique Ramirez Vale, Bianca Lucia

1 Ramirez Vale, Carson Elizabeth McNutt, Blaine Anne McNutt, Samuel  
2 Jacob Vale, Isaac Matthew Vale, and Sebastian Vale Ortiz; to  
3 Richard Luis Saenz, Danielle Saenz Muniz and her husband, Ivan,  
4 Ivan Muniz II, and Briana Muniz; and to her many other relatives and  
5 friends; and, be it further

6         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
7 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
8 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Miriam  
9 Smith Vale.