

By: Eiland

H.R. No. 971

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 Elinor Steinhagen Burrus on January 27, 2011, at the age
3 of 83; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Daniel and Ruth Steinhagen, the
5 former Elinor Steinhagen was born in Beaumont on March 23, 1927; she
6 graduated from Beaumont High School and attended Sullins College in
7 Virginia before graduating from The University of Texas at Austin;
8 while working for a Beaumont architectural firm, Goldman Roth, she
9 paid a visit to a friend and met his older brother, Eugene Anthony
10 Burrus, Jr.; she and Gene Burrus were joined in matrimony six months
11 later, and she often said that he could have proposed on their first
12 date, and she would have immediately accepted; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Burrus became the mother of two children,
14 Vivian and Gene, and later welcomed seven cherished grandchildren
15 into the family; she and her husband shared a rewarding marriage for
16 50 years until his passing; and

17 WHEREAS, For many decades, Mrs. Burrus resided at Crystal
18 Beach, and she dedicated herself to the conservation of the Texas
19 Gulf Coast; she was instrumental in the early development of the
20 Texas Coastal Management Program, and she compiled extensive data
21 and took photographs that are still used in coastal law classes; the
22 General Land Office honored her tireless efforts to fight coastal
23 erosion on the Bolivar Peninsula by naming her its first Volunteer
24 of the Year in 1997; in addition, the Garden Club of America

1 accorded her its Zone IX Conservation Award; she was a member of the
2 Nature Conservancy and the National Parks Conservation
3 Association; and

4 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan also served her community as a
5 member of the Junior League of Beaumont, the Magnolia Garden Club,
6 and the Texas Historical Society, and she was a charter member of
7 Trinity United Methodist Church; fascinated by genealogy, she
8 carefully documented the history of both the Burrus and the
9 Steinhagen families, even contacting a courthouse in the former
10 East Germany and persuading them to accept a personal check in
11 exchange for the certified birth certificates of ancestors; and

12 WHEREAS, Feisty and independent, yet also kind and deeply
13 devoted to her family, Elinor Burrus distinguished herself through
14 her efforts to promote environmental stewardship, and she will
15 forever remain a source of inspiration to those who were privileged
16 to know her; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Elinor Steinhagen
19 Burrus and extend sincere condolences to the members of her family:
20 to her daughter, Vivian Burrus Todd, and her husband, Jerry; to her
21 son, Gene Burrus III, and his wife, Ruthie; to her grandchildren,
22 Ellie Burrus Livesay and her husband, Grant, Laura Todd Weaver and
23 her husband, Jamie, Tyrrell and Charles Burrus, and Daniel,
24 William, and Chad Todd; to her great-granddaughter, Claire Livesay;
25 to her brother-in-law, Felix Burrus; to her sister-in-law, Chloe
26 Steinhagen; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it
27 further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Elinor
4 Steinhagen Burrus.