

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 2201

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of Jo Ann
2 Darden of Waco, who passed away on April 21, 2011, at the age of 78;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Born on October 6, 1932, in Woodville to
5 Stephen B. Owens and Margaret Allie Owens, the former Jo Ann Owens
6 graduated from high school in Beaumont in 1949 and then attended
7 Lamar University, earning her degree in 1953; while in high school
8 and college, she was a member of the notable singing group the
9 Melody Maids, traveling to numerous military bases as well as New
10 York and Mexico City to perform and also taking part in the opening
11 ceremonies for the Shamrock Hotel in Houston; and

12 WHEREAS, She met the love of her life, Robert F. Darden, Jr.,
13 while in college, and the two were married in 1953, five days after
14 he received his United States Air Force commission; with her
15 husband, Mrs. Darden soon left for Schilling Air Force Base in
16 Kansas, and they spent a total of 58 years together while residing
17 in Alabama, California, Washington, Virginia, Japan, and Texas and
18 welcoming three children, Robert, Steven, and Danni; and

19 WHEREAS, A devoted homemaker and mother, Mrs. Darden loved to
20 cook for her family, who especially enjoyed her shrimp gumbo,
21 cornbread dressing, chicken enchiladas, and potato salad; she was a
22 skilled piano player with a remarkable ability to play a piece after
23 hearing it just once, and she also took pleasure in decorating,
24 gardening, and caring for her dogs; and

1 WHEREAS, This industrious Texan found time over the course of
2 her busy life to teach remedial math in public schools and work in
3 an elementary school library; after coming to Waco, she assisted
4 with student registration at Baylor University and served as a
5 dormitory mother at the school, became a part of the Waco Center for
6 Youth's public responsibility committee, and cooked for more than
7 two decades for the Seventh and James Baptist Church's Meals on
8 Wheels program; in addition, she was a member of the Philanthropic
9 Educational Organization, which supports education for women; and

10 WHEREAS, Strong in her faith, Mrs. Darden was a member of the
11 Columbus Avenue Baptist Church in Waco and participated in the
12 Friendship Sunday school class; she sang with the Columbus Avenue
13 church's Singing Saints and also in the Baylor University Senior
14 Choir, and she hosted a women's weekly Bible study group; and

15 WHEREAS, Those fortunate enough to have known Jo Ann Darden
16 will long remember her for her joyful and compassionate spirit, and
17 although she will be greatly missed, her legacy will live on in the
18 hearts of the many people whose lives she touched; now, therefore,
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Jo Ann Darden and
22 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her
23 husband, Robert F. Darden, Jr.; to her sons, Robert F. Darden III
24 and his wife, Mary, and Steven L. Darden and his wife, Ellen; to her
25 daughter, Danni L. Mayfield, and her husband, Dan; to her brother,
26 Brunson "Sonny" Owens; to her sister-in-law, Peggy Sue Brammer; to
27 her grandchildren; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be

1 it further

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