

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 129

In Memory  
of  
Louise Hilma Ballerstedt Raggio

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas joins citizens across the state in mourning the loss of Louise Hilma Ballerstedt Raggio, who died January 23, 2011, at the age of 91; and

**WHEREAS**, Born in Austin in 1919, Louise Ballerstedt graduated from Austin High School, valedictorian of her class, in 1935; she attended The University of Texas at Austin and graduated magna cum laude in 1939; and

**WHEREAS**, While on a Rockefeller fellowship at American University in Washington in 1941, she met and married Grier Raggio, a lawyer, who died in 1988; after World War II, she attended night school in Dallas and earned her law degree; and

**WHEREAS**, Louise Raggio went on to forge a precedent-setting legal career by becoming the first female assistant district attorney in Dallas County; she also made history as the first woman to prosecute a criminal case in the county and by winning a criminal case with an all-woman jury; and

**WHEREAS**, After joining her husband in private practice, she quickly became known for her powerful voice on behalf of women's rights and made her mark in Texas legal history by becoming the principal force behind the Marital Property Act of 1967; the law eliminated an archaic Texas code that legally discriminated against Texas women; and

**WHEREAS**, A nationally known figure and a pioneer who fought against numerous outdated conventions, she was also the author of a book, *Texas Tornado*, and was honored in 1995 by the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession with its Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Louise Raggio was an exceptionally gifted woman whose vision and strong will opened doors for the women of Texas; she was also a woman of high standards who was dedicated to her family and friends and who was deeply loved by all who knew her; and

**WHEREAS**, An exemplary lady, she gave unselfishly of her time to others and made immeasurable and lasting contributions to her community and state, and she leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by all who had the good fortune of sharing in her life; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Louise Hilma Ballerstedt Raggio; and, be it further

S.R. No. 129

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Louise Raggio.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 31, 2011, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate