

By: Harper-Brown

H.R. No. 206

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Gene Olafsen was honored at the second annual
2 Exemplary Women of Irving High Tea event on November 4, 2012, in
3 tribute to her dedicated efforts in behalf of her community; and

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Olafsen moved to Irving in 1968 with her four
5 children and her first husband, Edward Demonbreun, who passed away
6 in 1982; during her early years in the city, she volunteered with
7 the Irving Little Theatre; for the company's production of *Mame*,
8 she personally sewed 30 costumes, which represented some of the
9 first stitches in what would become a long tapestry of support for
10 the arts; and

11 WHEREAS, After a successful career at American Airlines,
12 Mrs. Olafsen retired in 1987, which allowed her additional time to
13 devote to cultural activities; she became a charter member of the
14 Irving Community Theatre Guild in 1989, and she has provided
15 thoughtful guidance to the organization in the capacities of vice
16 president, treasurer, board member, and co-chair of elegance and
17 entertainment, as well as in her current role as president;
18 moreover, she played a vital part in planning the shows *Encore I*,
19 *Encore II*, and *An Evening with Louise Mandrell*, and she has thrice
20 served as co-chair of the Mardi Gras Party, an event for which she
21 and her second husband, William Olafsen, were selected as king and
22 queen in 2008; in recognition of her work, the guild honored her
23 with its Star Award in 2004; and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. Olafsen's enthusiasm and determination have

1 also been of great assistance to the Irving Symphony League; she
2 served with that group from 1990 until 2009 and was co-chair for
3 three ISL balls; this gifted organizer oversaw registration for the
4 2002 conference of the Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras,
5 just one of many sterling contributions that garnered her the
6 league's Distinguished Service Award; for many of these projects,
7 as well as for the events she arranged for the Irving Community
8 Theatre Guild, she received vital help from Mr. Olafsen, her
9 daughters Donna and Denise, and her son-in-law John Femrite; and

10 WHEREAS, Imbued with boundless community spirit, Mrs.
11 Olafsen has shared her time and talents with the Lyric Stage League,
12 serving on the board of directors and the annual fund-raising
13 committee; in addition, she has co-chaired two CanalFest galas and
14 has aided the Irving Cares Christmas charity initiative; other
15 groups that have benefited from her membership include the Irving
16 Hospital Foundation, the Irving Heritage Society, the Las Colinas
17 Women's Association, and Friends of the Irving Public Library; her
18 myriad endeavors have earned her the respect and appreciation of
19 countless people, and she was the recipient of the High Spirited
20 Citizen Award from the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau in
21 August 2006; and

22 WHEREAS, Over the years, Gene Olafsen has been a tireless
23 champion for the theater and musical arts and numerous other worthy
24 causes, and she may take justifiable pride in the many ways that she
25 has helped enhance the quality of life in the Irving area; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas

1 Legislature hereby congratulate Gene Olafsen on her selection as
2 one of the Exemplary Women of Irving and extend to her sincere best
3 wishes for continued success in her important work; and, be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Mrs. Olafsen as an expression of high regard by the
7 Texas House of Representatives.