

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 385

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to  
2 a close when Stella Finnegan Villareal of San Antonio passed away on  
3 January 20, 2013, at the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Liverpool, England, on March 25, 1926, she  
5 was the daughter of Albert Finnegan, a dock worker, and Mary Ann  
6 Finnegan, a union organizer who was awarded the British Empire  
7 Medal by King George VI; Stella Finnegan worked in a factory during  
8 World War II, and it was at that time that she met her future  
9 husband, Lonnie Villareal, who was serving in the U.S. Army Air  
10 Corps; after the war, the couple married and would go on to share  
11 more than six decades together; and

12 WHEREAS, After a brief time in California, they eventually  
13 settled in San Antonio, where Mr. Villareal returned to his job at  
14 Kelly Air Force Base; Mrs. Villareal was employed at a variety of  
15 jobs until the birth of her second child, when she dedicated herself  
16 full-time to her family; over the years, she journeyed back to  
17 England frequently and convinced four of her sisters to join her in  
18 Texas; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Villareal joined the Mexican American  
20 Democrats and began to play an active role in local politics; she  
21 served on the Loma Park precinct committee for more than 30 years,  
22 encouraging residents to vote and working on the campaigns of  
23 numerous candidates at the city, state, and national levels; this  
24 strong and independent woman also found time to return to work,

1 serving as a teacher's aide and helping children with learning  
2 disabilities; and

3 WHEREAS, A devoted mother, Mrs. Villareal instilled in her  
4 loved ones the values of education and community service, and she  
5 took great pride in her children, both of whom graduated from  
6 Harvard University and went on to practice law; and

7 WHEREAS, Those fortunate enough to have known Stella  
8 Villareal will remember the way she touched their lives with her  
9 enthusiasm, generosity, and dedication, and she will forever hold a  
10 treasured place in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Stella Finnegan  
13 Villareal and extend sincere condolences to the members of her  
14 family: to her daughter, Patricia, and her husband, Thomas; to her  
15 son, Gavin, and his wife, Cynthia; to her sisters, Theresa Vale and  
16 Josephine Breen; to her brothers, Anthony and Terence Finnegan; to  
17 her grandchildren, Sean, Colin, Daniel, Henry, and Julia; to her  
18 caretakers, Lupe Elizondo, Helen Alaniz, Karina Sanchez, Tonia  
19 Estrada, and Sherry DeLeon; and to her other relatives and many  
20 friends; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
22 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Stella  
24 Villareal.