

By: Moody

H.R. No. 410

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of El Paso and beyond are mourning the
2 passing of Rochelle Nieman, the co-founder and co-pastor of
3 Abundant Living Faith Center, on December 30, 2012, at the age of
4 61; and

5 WHEREAS, Originally from Raton, New Mexico, Rochelle Nieman
6 moved to El Paso in 1968 to study at The University of Texas; there
7 she met her future husband, Charles Nieman, with whom she would go
8 on to share 42 years; and

9 WHEREAS, The couple began a small, home-based Bible study in
10 1977 that soon began meeting in a railroad union hall to accommodate
11 growth; within a few years, the church was well on its way to
12 becoming the major ministry it is today; with some 25,000 members,
13 Abundant Living Faith Center is considered El Paso's first
14 mega-church; and

15 WHEREAS, Pastor Nieman held an equal leadership role in the
16 church with her husband at a time when that was uncommon for women,
17 and she was a trailblazer for countless women of faith over the
18 course of her ministry; among her many responsibilities, she
19 directed the church administration, led the women's ministry, and
20 regularly taught the congregation during its weekly service;
21 moreover, she founded and served as superintendent of Faith
22 Christian Academy; and

23 WHEREAS, This esteemed clergywoman also oversaw numerous
24 ALFC outreach efforts, including two weekly food pantries, annual

1 back-to-school and holiday toy giveaways, basic training classes,
2 and a disaster assistance program, and with her husband, she taught
3 at leadership conferences throughout the United States and around
4 the globe; and

5 WHEREAS, Known for her optimism and zest for life, Pastor
6 Nieman strived to give her all in each of her many roles; she was the
7 devoted mother of two children, Shannon and Jared, and she took
8 great joy in welcoming two grandchildren, Caleb and Emery, into her
9 family; and

10 WHEREAS, Rochelle Nieman loved the challenges and
11 opportunities of guiding a large church and carrying its message to
12 the world, and she leaves behind a legacy that will be forever
13 treasured by all those whose lives she touched; now, therefore, be
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Rochelle Nieman and
17 extend sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her
18 husband, Pastor Charles Nieman; to her children and their spouses,
19 Shannon Nieman Elias and Matthew Elias and Jared and Karla Nieman;
20 to her grandchildren, Caleb Nieman and Emery Rochelle Nieman Elias;
21 and to her other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

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