

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of the Coastal Bend area lost an admired  
2 civic leader with the death of Mary Frances Diedrick Haas of Corpus  
3 Christi on February 1, 2013, at the age of 98; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in New Jersey on July 22, 1914, the former Mary  
5 Frances Diedrick was the daughter of Philip and Josephine Diedrick;  
6 she left home at the age of 14 to attend Trenton State Teachers'  
7 College, where she earned her bachelor's degree in English and  
8 history and her teaching certification; she taught special  
9 education classes for a time, and she also sold encyclopedias  
10 door-to-door and worked at Macy's book department; and

11           WHEREAS, She met Paul Haas at a church social, and they were  
12 married in 1936; the following year, the couple moved to Houston,  
13 and in 1941, when Mr. Haas was hired by an oil and gas company, they  
14 relocated to Corpus Christi, where Mrs. Haas became deeply engaged  
15 in community life; she helped to create what is now Texas A&M  
16 University--Corpus Christi, serving on the original board that  
17 worked to establish an institution of higher education in the city  
18 and later as the president of the board of directors for the  
19 school's foundation for development and expansion; she was  
20 appointed by Governors Bill Clements and Mark White to the  
21 University System of South Texas Board of Trustees, becoming the  
22 first female member of that body and later its president, and she  
23 played an instrumental role in the negotiations that resulted in  
24 the three state universities in Corpus Christi, Kingsville, and

1 Laredo joining the Texas A&M system; she also served on the  
2 TAMU--Corpus Christi president's council and assisted in the  
3 creation of the school's Early Childhood Education Center; she  
4 received an honorary doctorate from the school in 1995; and

5       WHEREAS, She and her husband established the Paul and Mary  
6 Haas Foundation in 1954, and Mrs. Haas guided the foundation in its  
7 mission of philanthropy for half a century; the organization  
8 awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships to over 1,000  
9 deserving students and donated some \$15 million to worthy  
10 organizations in the area; in addition, the Haas Foundation  
11 established endowed chairs in English and history at TAMU--Corpus  
12 Christi and a chair in genetics and an endowment for urologic cancer  
13 research at the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center; a lifelong supporter  
14 of education, Mrs. Haas annually selected a book to be presented to  
15 each member of the graduating class at the Paul R. Haas Middle  
16 School; and

17       WHEREAS, For three decades, Mrs. Haas served as a "Pink Lady"  
18 at Spohn Hospital, and she was recognized for her efforts at the  
19 hospital with an award for volunteerism; she also chaired the  
20 citizens' board of directors of Martineau Juvenile Hall and was a  
21 member and officer of the Coastal Bend Youth City School; a lover of  
22 music and theater, she served on the board of directors of the local  
23 symphony and a municipal arts commission, and she served as  
24 secretary of the Patrons of De Pineda and as president of the La  
25 Retama study club; in addition, she was a member of the local  
26 library and YWCA boards as well as a founding member and trustee of  
27 the Parkway Presbyterian Church; and

1           WHEREAS, In her leisure, Mrs. Haas enjoyed knitting and doing  
2 needlepoint, and she sewed blankets for premature babies born at  
3 Driscoll Children's Hospital; she also liked to golf and to go  
4 dancing with her husband, with whom she shared 72 years, before his  
5 passing in 2008; moreover, Mrs. Haas was a devoted mother, and she  
6 took great pride in her children and their spouses, Rheta and Robert  
7 Page, Raymond and Amanda Haas, and Rene Haas and David Perry, as  
8 well as in her 10 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; and

9           WHEREAS, Although this remarkable and accomplished woman  
10 will be deeply missed, she leaves behind an extraordinary legacy  
11 that will continue to resonate in South Texas and beyond for years  
12 to come; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Mary Frances  
15 Diedrick Haas and extend sincere sympathy to her friends and loved  
16 ones; and, be it further

17           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mary  
20 Frances Diedrick Haas.

Hunter  
Herrero

H.R. No. 785

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 785 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 20, 2013.

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Chief Clerk of the House