

By: Geren

H.R. No. 1154

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the  
2 passing of Ruth Walker Polan of Nixon on January 13, 2013, at the  
3 age of 84; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Tom and Hertha Walker, the former  
5 Ruthie Walker was born in Nixon on April 8, 1928; she grew up during  
6 the Great Depression and demonstrated her resourcefulness at an  
7 early age, earning money by cleaning a local church; as a teenager,  
8 she found a job at the drugstore soda fountain, where a customer  
9 named Glenn Polan developed the habit of stopping by on a daily  
10 basis for a scoop of ice cream and a chat; they later married and  
11 became the proud parents of two sons, Glenn and Ted; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Polan was employed as a clothes buyer for  
13 Joske's department store and as a civil servant in San Antonio  
14 before embarking on a distinguished career in education; she held  
15 both a bachelor's and a master's degree and served a number of  
16 school districts as a teacher and administrator; following Mr.  
17 Polan's retirement, she joined him in founding an international  
18 tour and travel company, which allowed her to fulfill her dream of  
19 seeing the world; the couple visited more than 70 different  
20 countries, and she started an import company, Ruthie's of Houston,  
21 which turned into a successful wholesale jewelry business; and

22 WHEREAS, While pursuing a busy professional life, Mrs. Polan  
23 never failed to put her loved ones first; she found time to whip up  
24 fabulous dishes, and her recipes became staples at gatherings of

1 her large extended family, which grew to include five grandsons,  
2 Thomas, Parker, Walker, William, and Chance; and

3       WHEREAS, This kind and compassionate Texan mentored  
4 innumerable people, and during the time her husband served as the  
5 director of the Methodist Student Center in Huntsville, Mrs. Polan  
6 took in many young women who needed a place to stay, often giving  
7 them clothing as well as food and shelter; when homeless men showed  
8 up at the door, she gave them food, a smile, and sometimes a little  
9 spare cash from the cookie jar; with a boundless will to serve, she  
10 was always the first to deliver a meal to an ailing friend,  
11 volunteer for a church garage sale, or organize opposition to a  
12 highway that threatened quality of life in the neighborhood; and

13       WHEREAS, Through the years, Mrs. Polan faced any challenges  
14 she met with grace, and whatever transpired, she remained a source  
15 of joy and inspiration; she also continued to share with her husband  
16 their special daily ritual, an afternoon ice cream treat; and

17       WHEREAS, Ruthie Polan enriched countless lives through her  
18 warm and caring ways, and she will forever hold a special place in  
19 the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know her; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Ruth Walker Polan  
23 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her  
24 husband of 66 years, Glenn Polan; to her sons, Glenn Kraege Polan,  
25 Jr., and his wife, Deborah, and Ted David Polan and his wife,  
26 Robbie; to her grandsons, Thomas Polan and his wife, Amanda, Parker  
27 Polan and his wife, Mary, and Walker, William, and Chance Polan; to

1 her sister, Beth Walker; and to her many other relatives and  
2 friends; and, be it further

3       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
4 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House  
5 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ruthie  
6 Polan.