

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 1450

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A remarkably full and generous life came to an end
2 with the passing of pioneering Texas attorney Wilminor Morris Carl
3 of Houston on November 30, 2011, at the age of 106; and

4 WHEREAS, Descended from a family of lawyers, including Texas
5 state legislator and district judge William H. Stewart, Wilminor
6 Morris was born in Galveston on June 4, 1905, to William Carloss
7 Morris and Willie Stewart Morris; she was raised in Galveston's
8 historic district and then moved with her family to Houston when she
9 was in her teens; and

10 WHEREAS, Miss Morris graduated from high school at the age of
11 15 and received her undergraduate degree from Rice Institute, now
12 Rice University, in 1925; she went on to study for a semester at the
13 University of Wisconsin Law School before earning her law degree
14 from The University of Texas in 1929; and

15 WHEREAS, During her student days in Austin, Miss Morris met
16 and married William Noble Carl, and they shared a fulfilling
17 relationship that lasted 62 years, until his death in 1991; the
18 couple became the parents of four children, Wilminor Carl Gardner,
19 William Noble Carl, Jr., Mary Carl Briner, and Thomas Stewart Carl;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, One of the first women to be admitted to the bar in
22 the Lone Star State, Mrs. Carl shared a practice with her husband,
23 taking the firm's pro bono cases as well as keeping the books; after
24 Mr. Carl left to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II,

1 Mrs. Carl bought a suit and a briefcase and ran the practice until
2 the end of the war, when she resumed her primary role as a
3 homemaker; she continued, however, to practice law part-time, and
4 she became an inspiration and a mentor to several generations of
5 young women who aspired to a legal career, often hosting tea parties
6 where she would encourage them to persevere; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Carl chaired the Women's Section of the Houston
8 Bar Association in 1950, and the following year she became the first
9 woman to serve on the association's board of directors; a member of
10 the American Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas, she was
11 active in the National Association of Women Lawyers until late in
12 her life, serving as a state delegate for a number of years and also
13 as vice president; in 1999 she was a featured speaker at an event
14 celebrating women attorneys that was hosted by the *Texas Journal of*
15 *Women and the Law*; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to devoting significant time and energy
17 to her profession, Mrs. Carl gave generously of her talents and
18 resources to a number of area organizations; she served as a regent
19 of the Samuel Sorrell Chapter of the Daughters of the American
20 Revolution and held membership in the National Society of The
21 Colonial Dames of America; she was also a member of the Association
22 of Rice Alumni, the Rice University Century Club, the
23 English-Speaking Union, and the President's Advisors of Houston
24 Baptist University; a woman of strong religious faith, she attended
25 Second Baptist Church and the E. P. West Bible Class for many
26 years; she was also an avid golfer, hitting the links well into her
27 nineties and winning prizes in the senior division at Sugar Creek

1 Country Club; and

2 WHEREAS, Wilminor Carl impressed all who knew her with her
3 intelligence, her dignity, her quick wit, and her Southern
4 graciousness, and those who were privileged to share in her
5 friendship and love will forever remember her with great tenderness
6 and affection; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Wilminor Morris Carl
9 and extend sincere condolences to the members of her family; and, be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Wilminor
14 Morris Carl.

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