

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 422

In Memory
of
Ruth Cowie Buerkle

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and pays tribute to the life of preservationist Ruth Cowie Buerkle, who died February 18, 2013, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Born March 3, 1923, Ruth spent her formative years at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, where her widowed mother had found work in the officer's club; Ruth's love for the historic infantry post would later spark her conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, As a young girl, she lived the life of an officer's child; she met such military figures as Douglas MacArthur and Dwight Eisenhower and occasionally stayed overnight with Mamie Eisenhower when the future president was away; and

WHEREAS, After Ruth graduated from Jefferson High School in 1940, she attended nursing school and then joined the Army Nurse Corps, serving as a psychiatric nurse at Fort Polk, Louisiana; in 1949, she married military officer Bill Buerkle; the couple moved frequently, and Ruth enthusiastically studied the language and cultures of the countries in which they were stationed, which included Japan and Turkey; and

WHEREAS, In the 1960s, the Buerkle family returned to Fort Sam Houston; when several historic buildings were threatened with demolition, Ruth cofounded the Fort Sam Houston Historical Society; she also created the Fort Sam Houston Museum, and for her dedication to conservation, she received a commendation from the Army's Center of Military History; and

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WHEREAS, This remarkable activist was beloved by many and will be long remembered for her extraordinary mind and her unflagging efforts to save a cherished piece of Texas history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Ruth Cowie Buerkle; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ruth Buerkle.

Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 11, 2013, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate