

By: Paddie

H.R. No. 384

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to
2 a close when the Honorable Norma Jean LaGrone Heaton of Gary passed
3 away on March 12, 2014, at the age of 80; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in the community of Deadwood on January 27,
5 1934, the daughter of A. W. LaGrone and Inez Wilburn LaGrone, Jean
6 LaGrone grew up in Panola County and graduated from Carthage High
7 School in 1952; she married William Joe "Jay" Heaton in 1966, and
8 the couple became the proud parents of a son, James Moss;
9 Mrs. Heaton and her husband shared 44 loving years together until
10 his passing in May 2010; and

11 WHEREAS, Jean Heaton was a highly regarded public servant,
12 one who worked tirelessly in behalf of her community; she served on
13 the Gary City Council from 1991 to 1995, and in 1996, she was
14 elected to the office of mayor, a position she held for the rest of
15 her life; Mrs. Heaton was also keenly interested in education; she
16 served on the board of the Gary Independent School District, and
17 even in her later years, she made time to help in the school
18 cafeteria, where she took delight in her interactions with
19 students; and

20 WHEREAS, In addition to forging a notable career in public
21 service, Mayor Heaton worked a number of years for Southwestern
22 Electric Power Company, and she was later employed by the First
23 National Bank in Carthage and by the Gary ISD; she attended Eastside
24 Baptist Church in Gary, where she was a valued member of the

1 congregation; and

2 WHEREAS, A dynamic and civic-minded Texan, Jean Heaton lived
3 a caring and purposeful life, and she will forever be remembered
4 with deep affection by all who had the good fortune to know her;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Norma
8 Jean LaGrone Heaton and extend deepest sympathy to the members of
9 her family: to her siblings, Allyne Cassity, Bernice Croix and her
10 husband, Al, and Mack LaGrone and his wife, Charlotte; to her
11 numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; and to
12 her other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Norma Jean
16 LaGrone Heaton.