

By: Thompson of Harris

H.R. No. 1907

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, April 13, 2015, is Texas Female Judges Day at the
2 State Capitol, and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to
3 celebrate the achievements of female judges, past and present, who
4 have served in the State of Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Women judges in Texas have a storied history dating
6 back to 1925, when Governor Pat Neff appointed three women,
7 Hortense Sparks Ward, Hattie Leah Henenberg, and Ruth Virginia
8 Brazzil, to preside as Texas Supreme Court justices over a case from
9 which all of the current justices on the court had recused
10 themselves; and

11 WHEREAS, The case involved a fraternal organization that had
12 so many prominent members that no qualified male judges or
13 attorneys could be found to take their place who did not have a
14 conflict of interest; the women appointed to hear the matter were
15 all well-established attorneys, and those pioneering jurists
16 formed the first court in the nation composed entirely of women; and

17 WHEREAS, The first woman to hold a permanent position on a
18 Texas bench was Sarah Tilghman Hughes, a highly esteemed state
19 representative who was named to the 14th District Court in Dallas by
20 Governor James Allred in 1935; Judge Hughes went on to win election
21 to the seat for a full term and was returned to office for six
22 additional terms; in 1961, she earned further renown by becoming
23 the first woman to be sworn in as a federal district judge in Texas;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Since that time, numerous women have served with
2 distinction on the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal
3 Appeals; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, more than 1,000 women preside over courts
5 throughout the state; they exemplify the highest standards of
6 judicial conduct, and their dedication to public service is truly
7 an inspiration to us all; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize April 13, 2015, as Texas Female Judges
10 Day at the State Capitol and commend the women judges of Texas for
11 their immeasurable contributions to the Lone Star State.