

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 2235

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Baylor University community was deeply saddened  
2 by the passing of Mary Wilson Russell McCall on November 13, 2014,  
3 at the age of 95; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Chillicothe on October 7, 1919, the former  
5 Mary Wilson was the daughter of Dora and Quincy Wilson; she  
6 graduated from Vernon High School and enrolled in Baylor University  
7 at the age of 16; following her marriage to Lloyd Russell, she  
8 completed her bachelor's degree at North Texas State University,  
9 and she taught at that institution during World War II while her  
10 husband served in the U.S. Navy; Dr. Russell subsequently became a  
11 department chair at Baylor and the couple returned to Waco; and

12           WHEREAS, She was employed as a teacher and counselor in Waco  
13 public schools and earned her master's degree from Baylor; after  
14 the untimely death of Dr. Russell in 1968, she was fortunate enough  
15 to find love a second time with Dr. Abner McCall, the president and  
16 chancellor of Baylor; they married on Christmas Day in 1970, and she  
17 fully embraced the role of first lady of the institution; and

18           WHEREAS, Committed to expanding access to higher education,  
19 Mrs. McCall served as president of the Baylor Round Table and led  
20 the creation of its scholarship fund; she was instrumental in the  
21 establishment of the Lloyd O. Russell Memorial Scholarship Fund and  
22 the Abner V. and Mary McCall Scholarship Fund; in addition, she was  
23 a charter member of the President's Club and the Endowed  
24 Scholarship Society, and she was co-president of the Heritage Club;

1 also benefiting her sorority, she served as an advisor to the Kappa  
2 Kappa Gamma chapter; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. McCall designed and supervised the building of  
4 the president's home, and she was chair of the wives' organization  
5 of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities;  
6 she enjoyed getting to know the other presidents and their spouses,  
7 but she took the greatest pleasure in making Baylor a warm and  
8 welcoming place; over the years, she helped students cook dinners  
9 to impress their girlfriends, located elusive homecoming game  
10 tickets for their dates, and graciously opened her home to hundreds  
11 of people; and

12 WHEREAS, The university recognized Mrs. McCall with one of  
13 its highest honors, the Founders Award, and she received the W. R.  
14 White Meritorious Service Award from the Baylor University Alumni  
15 Association; she was named a Yellow Rose of Texas by then-governor  
16 George W. Bush, and her two daughters, Linda Letbetter and Nancy  
17 Chapman, donated the Mary McCall Chapel of the Baylor Panhellenic  
18 Building in her honor; and

19 WHEREAS, Benefiting the wider community as well, Mrs. McCall  
20 was a member of the Historic Waco Foundation, the Brazos Forum, the  
21 Thursday Study Club, and the Waco Literary Club; moreover, she was a  
22 trustee of the First Baptist Church of Waco, and she taught Sunday  
23 school, took part in missions, and delivered Meals on Wheels; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1995, Dr. McCall died, and eight years later,  
25 Mrs. McCall moved to the Edgemere Retirement Community in Dallas;  
26 she served on its board, and she joined Park Cities Baptist Church  
27 and served as president of both her Sunday school class and the

1 Variety Book Club; she was also a sustaining member of the Baylor  
2 University Women's Council of Dallas, which recognized her with its  
3 Woman of Distinction Award, and she belonged to the Ermance Book  
4 Club of Dallas; and

5 WHEREAS, Mary McCall made a lasting, positive impact on  
6 Baylor University through her vision, leadership, and dedication,  
7 and although she is profoundly missed by her loved ones, she left a  
8 legacy that they can remember with pride; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mary Wilson Russell  
11 McCall and extend sincere condolences to her family and friends;  
12 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 Mary  
16 McCall.