

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1012

In Memory
of
Edward M. Nelson Jr.
and
Dorothy Louise Nelson

WHEREAS, The city of Austin lost two beloved residents with the passing of Dorothy Louise Nelson on April 21, 2015, at the age of 92, and of her husband, Edward M. Nelson Jr., on May 16, 2015, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, The former Dorothy Cornforth was born to John and Ruby Cornforth on November 7, 1922, in Taylor, and she graduated from Taylor High School; and

WHEREAS, Edward Nelson Jr. was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on December 5, 1924, to Edward Nelson Sr. and Florence Nelson; an alumnus of John H. Reagan High School in Houston, he answered his nation's call to duty during World War II by enlisting in the United States Navy; after completing training in Pass Christian, Mississippi, he served at sea for six months, delivering fuel to air bases in Iceland, England, and Scotland; he subsequently attended the United States Merchant Marine Academy, where he received a bachelor of science degree, and following his military service, he earned a degree in mechanical engineering from The University of Texas at Austin; and

WHEREAS, The couple exchanged vows of matrimony on June 15, 1946, and over the course of nearly seven decades together, they nurtured a rewarding union that was made even richer with the addition of two children, Edward and Deborah, as well as four grandchildren, Alexander, Charlie, Emily, and Travis, and a great-grandson, Barrett; and

WHEREAS, After beginning his career in the petrochemical industry along the Gulf Coast of Texas, Mr. Nelson was hired by J. Ray McDermott in 1961, and his job soon took him and his wife across the globe, with assignments in such cities as The Hague, Beirut, Brussels, and London; he spearheaded efforts to set up a marine supply base in Great Yarmouth, England, and a docking space for offshore construction vessels in Amsterdam, and he later purchased 800 acres of land near Inverness, Scotland, for a fabrication facility; in the latter part of his career, he negotiated contracts in Switzerland, England, China, and Brazil, and Mrs. Nelson ably managed their household transfers, finances, children's schooling, and many other needs, even while in environments of foreign customs and languages; and

WHEREAS, Active in community life, Mr. Nelson served as a member of the Baytown Independent School District board of trustees and as president and a board member of Vaughn House, a charity that aids deaf adults with mental disabilities, and Mrs. Nelson made beautiful quilts for the homeless and for immigrant families through Refugee Services of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The Nelsons also were deeply devoted to their Christian faith, and over the years, they taught Sunday school at University United Methodist Church in Austin and Saint Mark's United Methodist Church in Baytown and volunteered with Kingdom Kamp, an annual retreat for adults with mental disabilities; moreover, they were founding members of the American

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International Church in London as well as valued congregants of Faith United Methodist Church in Austin and later Riverbend Church, where they contributed to the Mobile Loaves and Fishes Ministry and where Mr. Nelson led the men's Bible study group; and

WHEREAS, Throughout their lives, Edward and Dorothy Nelson remained dedicated to their faith, their family, and to one another, and though they are deeply missed, the couple left behind a notable legacy that will continue to resonate in their community for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Edward M. Nelson Jr. and Dorothy Louise Nelson and extend sincere condolences to the members of their family: to their children, Edward and his wife, Olga, and Deborah and her husband, Wayne; to their grandchildren, Alexander, Charlie, Emily, and Travis; to their great-grandson, Barrett; and to their other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for their family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Edward Nelson Jr. and Dorothy Nelson.

Perry

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 26, 2015, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate