

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 107

In Memory
of
Mildred Elizabeth Smith Barton

WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the passing of Mildred Elizabeth Smith Barton of Beaumont on June 17, 2017, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, Born in Beaumont on February 23, 1933, the former Mildred Smith was the daughter of Ural Bonnette and Buck Smith; a gifted musician, she became the organist at Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church at a very early age; she graduated from French High School and Lamar University, earning a bachelor's degree in music, and went on to complete a master's degree in music theory at the University of Houston; while still in college, she had the honor of being invited to play a reception at the Governor's Mansion in Austin, a memory that she long cherished; and

WHEREAS, Admired for her skill as an arranger, Mrs. Barton also had the uncommon ability to play any song in any key and could even play new pieces after hearing them just once; she taught music and choir for a number of years at Amelia Elementary and Forest Park High Schools, where her choir groups earned accolades in University Interscholastic League competitions at the local and state levels; she later received certification in counseling from McNeese State University and worked as a counselor and registrar at Forest Park High before retiring from a similar position at West Brook High School; highly esteemed by her students, she stayed in contact with many of them even after the end of her career in education; and

WHEREAS, While working at Amelia Elementary, she met her future husband and the love of her life, fellow teacher Neal Barton; they shared a rewarding marriage that spanned more than five decades, and she took immense pride in their son, Neal; a valued member of Westgate Memorial Baptist Church, Mrs. Barton considered playing the organ for her congregation one of her life's greatest joys; and

WHEREAS, Although Mildred Barton is deeply missed, memories of her strong faith, her passion for her calling, and her devotion to her family remain to comfort and inspire those she leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Mildred Elizabeth Smith Barton and extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn her passing; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mildred Barton.

Creighton, Hughes

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on August 7, 2017, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate