

By: Price

H.R. No. 2300

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 100th birthday of an esteemed Texan is indeed
2 cause for celebration, and Oleta Smith of Dumas is marking this
3 momentous milestone in her life on June 20, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to Edwin and Elizabeth Thornton in 1917, on a
5 farm outside of Lockney, the former Oleta Thornton graduated from
6 high school in 1935 and married her sweetheart, Ben Smith, the
7 following year; they became the proud parents of a daughter,
8 Dorotha Evylena, and a son, James Warren; and

9 WHEREAS, The Smiths farmed in Floyd County before acquiring a
10 gasoline distributorship in Hart; during Mr. Smith's career in the
11 petroleum industry, they lived in a number of different Texas
12 communities, including Dumas and Texas City, as well as in New
13 Mexico and Utah; the couple shared a fulfilling relationship of
14 more than 51 years before Mr. Smith's passing; and

15 WHEREAS, Sustained by a deep faith, Mrs. Smith served as a
16 church secretary and Sunday school teacher; she also sang in the
17 choir and gave generously of her time and talents to many women's
18 mission groups; a charter member of the Utah Idaho Southern Baptist
19 Convention, she was a state officer of the WMU organization; and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith is thought to be the oldest Gold Star
21 Mother in Texas; in honor of her son, who was killed in action
22 during the Vietnam War, she represented the families of the fallen
23 at both the groundbreaking for the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans
24 Memorial and the monument's dedication; and

1 WHEREAS, Devoted to her family, Mrs. Smith enjoys spending
2 time with her daughter and son-in-law, Dick Waldren, her
3 grandchildren, Debra and David, and her great-grandchildren, Ben
4 and Hadley; she was recently honored as the oldest volunteer at the
5 Moore County Hospital District gift shop, and in her free time, she
6 enjoys reading, playing cards and dominoes, and watching the Texas
7 Rangers and Dallas Cowboys on television; and

8 WHEREAS, Oleta Smith has met life's challenges with
9 resilience and determination, and she is a source of tremendous
10 inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to know her; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
13 Legislature hereby congratulate Oleta Smith on the joyous occasion
14 of her 100th birthday and recognize her as a Texas Treasure; and, be
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for Mrs. Smith as an expression of high regard by the Texas
18 House of Representatives.