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By:  Price H.R. No. 348

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a trailblazing jurist with the death of Mary Lou Robinson of Amarillo on January 26, 2019, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, Born to Gerald and Frances Strueber in Dodge City, Kansas, on August 25, 1926, the former Mary Lou Strueber grew up in Amarillo; she met her future husband, A. J. Robinson, at The University of Texas School of Law, and they established the Robinson & Robinson firm in Amarillo; in 1955, Ms. Robinson was appointed judge of the Potter County Court-at-Law, and she later became judge of the 108th District Court and associate justice and then chief justice of the 7th Court of Appeals; in 1979, she was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as United States district judge for the Northern District of Texas, a position she held for almost four decades; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robinson was known for her fairness, integrity, and meticulous application of the law; she ran her courtroom with tremendous professionalism, and she dug deeply into the issues of every case in order to understand all aspects; while serving as a role model and mentor to other women in the legal community, she also advocated powerfully for women's rights and the passage of the Texas Equal Rights Amendment, and she helped to effect change in laws that prohibited married women from entering into binding contracts; in 2018, she became the first woman within a five-state area to have a federal courthouse named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, The devoted mother of three children, Rebecca, Diana, and Matthew, Judge Robinson taught them the importance of family, hard work, honesty, and service; she eventually knew the joy of becoming a proud grandmother and great-grandmother; deeply committed to the community, she served on the boards of a host of civic organizations, and she was an elder of Westminster Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Mary Lou Robinson set an inspiring example as a pioneer of the Texas judiciary and a pillar of the legal community for over six decades, and she will be remembered with admiration and affection by all who were fortunate enough to know her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mary Lou Robinson and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her children, Rebecca McCoy and her husband, Mark, Diana Robinson and her fiancé, Ed Hatchett, and Matthew Robinson and his wife, Mary; to her grandchildren, Jeremy Gruhlkey and his wife, Naeun Rim, Bradley Gruhlkey, Ashley Kelley and her husband, Taylor, Rachel Robinson and Joel Lehtinen, Blake Elms and her husband, Gatlin, David Tubb and his wife, Hayley, and Frances Tubb; to her granddaughter-in-law, Elana Harvey; to her nine great-grandchildren; and to her many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the Honorable Mary Lou Robinson.