H.R. No. 973

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The West community lost one of its most admired citizens with the passing of Mary Elizabeth "Mimi" Irwin, owner of the Village Bakery, on March 4, 2019, at the age of 74; and

WHEREAS, The former Mary Elizabeth Montgomery was born on August 9, 1944, to Wendel and Georgia Montgomery; known as "Mimi" since childhood, she grew up in a family that was deeply engaged in both Czech culture and entrepreneurship, with her mother's family owning the Famous Dry Goods, later known as the Village Shoppe, and her father owning the Old Corner Drug Store; her parents joined together to establish the Village Bakery in 1952, and while they built the business, Mimi completed her schooling at St. Mary's Catholic School, West High School, and The University of Texas at Austin, where she graduated with honors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Irwin went on to establish a career in retail merchandising at Foley's in Houston; she rose through the ranks to become a vice president of Federated Department Stores, now Macy's, Inc., and resided in New York City for 25 years; although her work took her all over the world, she always held a special place in her heart for West; after her father died in 2003, she returned home from Manhattan and took over the Village Bakery; her natural business sense helped her guide the enterprise into a new era of success while maintaining its Czech heritage and family traditions; along the way, she stayed active in the fashion industry through her consulting company, Gramercy Associates; and

WHEREAS, A respected and dedicated member of her community, Ms. Irwin served as a director of the Kiwanis Club of West, helped establish the West Museum, and supported Westfest, the annual Czech celebration cofounded by her parents in the 1970s; passionate about volunteer work and historic preservation, she was a member of the board for the Brazos Forum and the Historic Waco Foundation as well as a member of the McLennan County Historic Commission and the standing committee of the W. R. Poage Legislative Library at Baylor University; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Mimi Irwin set an inspiring example of civic engagement and professional achievement, and her legacy will long be cherished by those who were blessed to share in her love and friendship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Mary Elizabeth Irwin and extend deepest sympathy to the members of her family: to her aunt, Gladys Quilter; to her cousins, Patti Arms and her husband, Geoff, John M. Price and his wife, Brenda, and Suzy Price; to her extended cousins, Lauren Beck and her husband, Chris, and their children, John T. Price and his wife, Rachel, and their children, and Austin Price and his wife, Sarah; and to her other relatives and many 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 Mimi Irwin.

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 973 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 12, 2019.

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Chief Clerk of the House