86R30830 JGH-D

By:  Bonnen of Brazoria H.R. No. 1484

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life has drawn to a close with the death of Elizabeth Nell Dyess Denman of Lake Jackson on April 25, 2019, at the age of 98; and

WHEREAS, Nell Dyess was born in Albany on October 15, 1920, to Richard and Hallie Dyess, and she grew up with a brother, William; after graduating from high school in 1938, she attended John Tarleton College and earned a bachelor's degree in education at The University of Texas at Austin in 1942; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, she wed Ben Denman, and the couple shared a rewarding marriage that spanned more than seven decades before Mr. Denman's death in 2014; Mrs. Denman was the proud mother of two children, Ed and Marajen, and later in life, she was blessed with three grandchildren, Elizabeth, Margaret, and David, and five great-grandchildren, Stewart, Hallie, Charlie, Ben, and Owen; and

WHEREAS, The Denmans lived in Brownwood, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Richmond, Virginia, before settling in Dallas in 1966; early in her life, Mrs. Denman taught school, directed a church youth choir, and hosted a women's radio show, but by the time her family moved to Tulsa, she had become a widely recognized expert in floral design and horticulture and a national master flower show judge; she went on to teach horticulture and flower arranging for 60 years, and she played a leading role in the establishment of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, where she was a board member emeritus and the recipient of the first Founders Award; over the course of her life, she was president of seven local garden clubs as well as president of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., director of the South-Central Region of the National Garden Clubs, and a board member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs; she wrote articles for many gardening magazines, published two books, and was named Garden Club Woman of the Year at the State Fair of Texas; and

WHEREAS, After retiring with her husband to Lake Jackson, Mrs. Denman remained active with the Brazosport Center for the Arts & Sciences and the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra, and she contributed significantly to the growth of the Brazosport Symphony League; and

WHEREAS, Talented, generous, and energetic, Nell Denman loved to beautify the world with gardens and flowers, and she leaves behind a legacy of service to her family, her faith, and her community that will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Elizabeth Nell Dyess Denman and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family: to her son, Judge Ed Denman, and his wife, Bettye; to her daughter, Marajen Denman; to her grandchildren, Elizabeth Denman Williams and her husband, Michael, Margaret Denman Beck and her husband, Doug, and David Denman and his wife, Misty; to her great-grandchildren, Stewart, Hallie, and Charlie Williams and Ben and Owen Denman; and to her 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 Elizabeth Nell Dyess Denman.