**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 735**

**In Memory**

**of**

**Vatra Grace Solomon**

**WHEREAS**, The State of Texas lost an admired public servant with the passing of Vatra Grace Solomon of Mount Pleasant on May 22, 2018, at the age of 71; and

**WHEREAS**, The daughter of former state representative Neal Solomon and Barbara Connelly Solomon, Vatra Solomon was born in Commerce on October 3, 1946, and grew up with a sister, Nila, and a brother, Jim; she graduated from Mount Vernon High School and completed her bachelor's degree in elementary education and music at East Texas State University; early in her career, she taught in Dallas and Mount Vernon and worked for the Texas State Teachers Association; she went on to join her father's insurance business and opened Solomon Insurance in Mount Pleasant in 1983; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Solomon joined Bill Ratliff's successful campaign for the state senate in 1988 and then became his executive assistant in Austin and Mount Pleasant; she continued to serve in his office after he became lieutenant governor in 2001, and his predecessor, Bob Bullock, fondly deemed her "strong as horseradish" in her role as gatekeeper; always kind and gracious, she was a confidant to public officials and fellow staffers alike, and the counsel she offered freely was both frank and wise; she advocated for teachers and set an inspiring example through her commitment to the greater good of the Lone Star State; in 2001, she received the inaugural Betty King Award for Legislative Staff Service; and

**WHEREAS**, Following Lieutenant Governor Ratliff's retirement, Ms. Solomon served as East Texas outreach coordinator for then-state comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn; she later joined Eric Wright & Associates, a government relations consulting firm; over the years, she served as president of the chambers of commerce in both Mount Vernon and Mount Pleasant, and she was appointed by Governor Mark White to the Sulphur River Basin Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, Vatra Solomon lived a caring and purposeful life dedicated to the well-being of her fellow Texans, and she will be remembered with deep admiration and affection by all who were fortunate enough to know her; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Vatra Grace Solomon and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn her passing; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Vatra Grace Solomon.

Hughes, Hinojosa,

Seliger, Watson,

West, Whitmire,

Zaffirini

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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    President of the Senate      I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 13, 2019, by a rising vote. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate