

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 46

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Admired philanthropist Louise Herrington Ornelas of
2 Tyler passed away on December 18, 2018, at the age of 93; and

3 WHEREAS, Born to Bill and Minnie Herrington in Las Cruces,
4 New Mexico, on June 15, 1925, the former Lou Herrington grew up on a
5 tenant farm in Arp as the second of seven children; she married
6 Martin Eugene Pettis and following his untimely death, she was
7 joined in matrimony to Robert M. "Bob" Rogers; they founded TCA
8 Cable TV in 1981, and as they were building their business, she took
9 on many responsibilities, even flagging traffic while her husband
10 climbed poles; after a divorce, she married Joseph Z. Ornelas in
11 1992; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Ornelas volunteered in Tyler hospitals as a
13 Pink Lady for three decades, and she was a longtime benefactor of
14 the nursing program at Baylor University; in 1999, she and
15 Mr. Ornelas gave a \$13 million endowment to the School of Nursing,
16 which Baylor renamed in her honor; the couple later made the lead
17 gift for the purchase of a building in Dallas for use as the new
18 academic home of the Louise Herrington School of Nursing;
19 "Ms. Lou," as she was known, took particular delight in giving
20 scholarships to numerous students who could not otherwise afford to
21 pursue a career in the field, and she established both The Lou
22 Ornelas Endowment for the School of Nursing and The Louise
23 Herrington Endowed Scholarship Fund in Nursing; moreover, she was a
24 major donor for the Rogers Engineering and Computer Science

1 Building; and

2 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mrs. Ornelas also gave generously to
3 Tyler Junior College, providing resources for many scholarships, as
4 well as for women's athletic programs, the Rogers Student Center,
5 the Ornelas Health and Physical Education Center, and the Ornelas
6 Hall Complex; the Ornelases funded a number of facilities at The
7 University of Texas at Tyler, among them the Fine and Visual Arts
8 Complex and the Louise Herrington Patriot Center, and they endowed
9 a professorship and scholarships in nursing, engineering, fine
10 arts, and education; in addition, they were tremendous benefactors
11 of East Texas Baptist University, Christus Trinity Mother Frances
12 Health System, and Brook Hill School; Mrs. Ornelas served on the
13 boards of ETBU and TJC and on the UT-Tyler Development Board, and
14 she took on leadership roles in a host of civic and charitable
15 organizations, including the East Texas Symphony League and the
16 Salvation Army; a woman of strong faith, she was a member of Green
17 Acres Baptist Church for 55 years; and

18 WHEREAS, Baylor granted Mrs. Ornelas an honorary nursing
19 degree, and it conferred on her some of its highest honors, among
20 them the Founder's Medal, the James Huckins Medallion, and the
21 Herbert H. Reynolds Exemplary Service Award; she was presented with
22 honorary degrees from Tyler Junior College and East Texas Baptist
23 University as well, and her myriad accolades included the national
24 Horatio Alger Award; in 2001, she and her husband received the
25 T. B. Butler Award recognizing Tyler's most outstanding citizens,
26 and their contributions to higher education earned them the
27 prestigious 2012 Mirabeau B. Lamar Medal; and

1 WHEREAS, Through her altruism and tireless civic engagement,
2 Louise Herrington Ornelas touched the lives of innumerable people,
3 and although she will be deeply missed, those who were privileged to
4 know her will forever remember her warmth, kindness, and wonderful
5 sense of humor; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Louise Herrington
8 Ornelas and extend sincere condolences to the members of her
9 family: to her husband of 26 years, Joseph Z. Ornelas; to her
10 daughters, Becky Wangner and her husband, Rob, Sheryl Palmer, Cindy
11 Scott, Rita Seldenrust and her husband, John, and Andrea Wegener
12 and her husband, Dave; to her sons, Rick Rogers and his wife, Mary
13 Jane, Randy Rogers and his wife, Brenda, and Russell Rogers and his
14 wife, Esther; to her 20 grandchildren: Michelle Drewett, Andrea
15 Lazenby, Richard, Ryan, Austin, Bethany, Rebecca, Reid, Russ, and
16 Robby Rogers, Connor, David, Jackson, and Molly Wangner, Rachel
17 Tillery, and Lauren, Elise, Andrew, and Rachel Seldenrust, and
18 Benjamin Wegener; to her 8 great-grandchildren: Brandon, Daniel,
19 and Beau Drewett, William and Spencer Lazenby, Chuck and Victoria
20 Grace Tillery, and Crew Wangner; to her sister, Ann Kimrey; to her
21 brother, Billy Creel Herrington and his wife, Peggy; and to her many
22 other relatives and friends.