

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 973

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

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

23           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mimi Irwin.