

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 1484

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life has drawn to a close with
2 the death of Elizabeth Nell Dyess Denman of Lake Jackson on April
3 25, 2019, at the age of 98; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, The Denmans lived in Brownwood, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and
16 Richmond, Virginia, before settling in Dallas in 1966; early in her
17 life, Mrs. Denman taught school, directed a church youth choir, and
18 hosted a women's radio show, but by the time her family moved to
19 Tulsa, she had become a widely recognized expert in floral design
20 and horticulture and a national master flower show judge; she went
21 on to teach horticulture and flower arranging for 60 years, and she
22 played a leading role in the establishment of the Dallas Arboretum
23 and Botanical Gardens, where she was a board member emeritus and the
24 recipient of the first Founders Award; over the course of her life,

1 she was president of seven local garden clubs as well as president
2 of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., director of the South-Central Region
3 of the National Garden Clubs, and a board member of the National
4 Council of State Garden Clubs; she wrote articles for many
5 gardening magazines, published two books, and was named Garden Club
6 Woman of the Year at the State Fair of Texas; and

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

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

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Elizabeth Nell
19 Dyess Denman and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of her
20 family: to her son, Judge Ed Denman, and his wife, Bettye; to her
21 daughter, Marajen Denman; to her grandchildren, Elizabeth Denman
22 Williams and her husband, Michael, Margaret Denman Beck and her
23 husband, Doug, and David Denman and his wife, Misty; to her
24 great-grandchildren, Stewart, Hallie, and Charlie Williams and Ben
25 and Owen Denman; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Elizabeth
3 Nell Dyess Denman.