

By: Hughes

S.C.R. No. 15

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Virginia Nancy Birt Baker on January 20, 2019, at the age
3 of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, The former Ginny Birt was born on August 22, 1929, in
5 Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Gladys and Charles Birt, and she grew up
6 with the companionship of a sister, Catherine; she moved with her
7 family to Texas at age 10 and went on to attend Highland Park High
8 School and Southern Methodist University, where she graduated with
9 a degree in interior design; and

10 WHEREAS, Seeking an opportunity to see the world, she
11 traveled to Europe to work as a civilian for the United States Army
12 and met her future husband, Charles "Chet" Baker, while in
13 Gelnhausen, Germany; the couple wed in 1956, and over the course of
14 a rewarding marriage that spanned 62 years, they became the parents
15 of four treasured children, Juliette, Christopher, Nancy, and
16 Matthew; later in life, Mrs. Baker was affectionately known as
17 "Grammar" to her 19 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; and

18 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, Mrs. Baker served as the textbooks
19 chair for the Daughters of the American Revolution, a role in which
20 she evaluated public school textbooks and testified numerous times
21 before the State Textbook Committee; out of a strong desire to
22 ensure that their children received a quality education, she and
23 her husband decided to homeschool, and Mrs. Baker became a tireless
24 advocate for that method of instruction, publishing *Teaching Your*

1 *Children at Home*, one of the first manuals for parents; in addition,
2 she spoke at homeschool seminars and conferences in many states,
3 wrote for national homeschool publications, and testified on behalf
4 of home education on numerous occasions; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker was also active with the Reading Reform
6 Foundation and was a frequent speaker at its seminars; she was a
7 longtime member of such societies as the Magna Charta Dames, the
8 Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, and the Sons and
9 Daughters of the Pilgrims, and her research and writing covered
10 genealogy, politics, history, and Biblical studies; and

11 WHEREAS, Ginny Baker generously shared her time, knowledge,
12 and expertise in her quest to empower parents to make the best
13 decisions for their children's education, and she will forever be
14 remembered with deep admiration and affection by her loved ones and
15 by those whose lives were touched by her work; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Virginia Nancy Birt Baker and
18 extend heartfelt sympathy to her relatives and friends; and, be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
23 Virginia Baker.