

By: Hughes

S.C.R. No. 62

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Texarkana lost an admired civic leader
2 with the passing of Martha Leah Williams Morriss on April 6, 2019,
3 at the age of 92; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Jeffie and Isaac Williams, the
5 former Martha Williams was born in Mount Pleasant on June 13, 1926,
6 and grew up with two brothers, Bill and Jim; her family moved to
7 Texarkana when she was 10, and after graduating from Texas High
8 School, she completed her bachelor's degree in mathematics at
9 Randolph-Macon Woman's College; on December 31, 1948, she married
10 Joshua Rutland Morriss Jr., and they were blessed with three sons,
11 Josh, Don, and William; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Morriss gave back to her fellow citizens
13 through her support for many worthwhile organizations; she served
14 as president of the Junior League of Texarkana, and she was
15 instrumental in the founding of the Texarkana Regional Arts and
16 Humanities Council; in addition, she generously shared her time and
17 talents with the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, the Literary Council
18 of Bowie and Miller Counties, and numerous educational endeavors;
19 widely admired for her contributions to the cultural scene, she was
20 appointed to the Texas Commission on the Arts; together with her
21 husband, she also played a key role in the establishment of MRC
22 Cornerstone Retirement Community; and

23 WHEREAS, The Texarkana Independent School District
24 recognized Mr. and Mrs. Morriss for their exceptional efforts in

1 behalf of education by naming the Martha and Josh Morriss
2 Mathematics & Engineering Elementary School in their honor;
3 moreover, in 2015 the district named the couple Distinguished
4 Alumni and acknowledged Mrs. Morriss for her education advocacy and
5 her work to benefit the TRAHC ArtSmart program, which brings the
6 arts to schools; over the years, she was the recipient of myriad
7 other accolades, including the C. E. Palmer Award for community
8 service from the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce; and

9 WHEREAS, For more than a half century, Mrs. Morriss taught
10 the Fellowship Sunday school class at Williams Memorial United
11 Methodist Church, and every summer, she organized Bible Storytime
12 for Vacation Bible School; she served on the Perkins School of
13 Theology Executive Board, and she and Mr. Morriss delivered Holy
14 Communion to shut-ins together as well; and

15 WHEREAS, Martha Morriss lived a rich and purposeful life
16 centered on her family, her faith, and her community, and she will
17 long be remembered with deep affection by all who knew her; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Martha Leah Williams Morriss and
21 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her
22 husband, Josh Morriss Jr.; to her sons, Josh Morriss III and his
23 wife, Diana, Don Morriss and his wife, Patsy, and William Morriss
24 and his wife, Rita; to her grandchildren, Meredith and David
25 Farren, Susannah and Daniel Linnett, Marjorie and Chad Matthews,
26 Allison and Brady Wright, Whitney and Ross Ormond, Melanie and Ben
27 Tkach, and Brad and Goodwin McCutcheon; to her 15

1 great-grandchildren; to her special niece, Joan Baldridge-Ballard;
2 and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House and Senate
5 adjourn this day, they do so in memory of Martha Leah Williams
6 Morriss.