

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 380

In Memory
of
Sudie Todd Blackburn

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Sudie Todd Blackburn, who died October 26, 2018, at the age of 97; and

WHEREAS, Sudie Blackburn was an exemplary citizen who was widely respected and admired for her outstanding achievements and her many contributions to the fabric of life in the Brownsville community; and

WHEREAS, She was born on April 21, 1921, in Port Arthur, to Clifton Marcus Todd and Marie Berenice Rivette Todd; she and her beloved husband of more than four decades, the late Cyrus E. Blackburn, married in 1939, and they were blessed with two children, Bonnie Holland and John Blackburn; her granddaughter, Amy, and her nieces, nephews, and many cousins were a source of much pride and joy for her; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blackburn and her family settled in Brownsville in 1949 after a decade of traveling the world as part of Mr. Blackburn's career with Pan American Airways; they established a successful business, which eventually was known as Blackburn Home Electronics; after Cyrus died, Sudie continued to operate the business until her retirement in 1993; and

WHEREAS, A respected community leader, Sudie was elected to the Brownsville Independent School District Board of Trustees in 1959 and served with distinction until 1971; she played an important role in the integration of the city's schools and in

ensuring that students of all races and backgrounds were treated fairly; she chaired the committee that was responsible for the bond election that led to the creation of Hanna High School; and

WHEREAS, She was a charter member of the Zonta Club of Brownsville and a longtime member of the West Brownsville Garden Club; she was elected district governor of the Texas Garden Clubs and was asked to work with Lady Bird Johnson on the campaign to beautify Texas highways; and

WHEREAS, A woman of courage, strength, and generosity, she gave unselfishly to others, and her wisdom, her grace, and her enthusiasm for living each day to the fullest will not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and she leaves behind memories that will be cherished forever by her family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Sudie Todd Blackburn; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sudie Blackburn.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 12, 2019, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate