87S30542 CW-D

By:  Ramos H.R. No. 59

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the passing of Tonna Nan Taylor Duke on August 26, 2021, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of Roy and Audrey Taylor, the former Tonna Taylor was born in Hope, Arkansas, on August 31, 1943, and grew up with a sister, Carol; she exchanged wedding vows with George Winston Duke, and they shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 57 years until his passing in 2019; Mrs. Duke was the devoted mother of a daughter, Dee Ann, and she experienced the joy of welcoming a grandson, Cole, into her treasured family; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Duke served as the girls' track and field coach and a health teacher at Richardson High School; during her tenure, she led her teams to many championships while instilling in her players valuable leadership skills; in 2000, she retired from the Richardson Independent School District as the assistant director of athletics; along the way, she also coached for International Sports Tours, taking elite-level, amateur athletes on competitive track and field trips throughout Europe; and

WHEREAS, Widely respected by her peers, Mrs. Duke held a number of important roles with the Texas Retired Teachers Association, including legislative chair and legislative coordinator; through her tireless work with TRTA, she served as a dedicated mentor and voice for her fellow educators; among her other affiliations, she was president of the Iota Nu chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and first vice president of the Richardson Woman's Club, which she further benefited as a member of the charitable foundation board; a woman of faith, she taught a Sunday school class, sang in two choirs, and was part of the prison ministry at First Baptist Richardson; and

WHEREAS, Generous and kindhearted, Tonna Duke made a meaningful difference in the lives of others, and she leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Tonna Nan Taylor Duke and extend sincere condolences to her relatives and friends; and, be it further

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