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By:  Howard H.R. No. 1529

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the passing of Joanna J. Heffington Nelson of Austin on May 24, 2020, at the age 71; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of James and Agnes Heffington, the former Joanna Heffington was born in Houston on August 13, 1948, and she grew up with three sisters, Lanette, Claudette, and Nelwyn; she completed her bachelor's degree in music education at Baylor University and taught middle school in Brooklyn, New York, for two years; subsequently, she became head assistant to the chief curator at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; after returning to Texas, she worked as a transcriptionist for three district courts in Travis County and then became a successful real estate agent; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Nelson shared a rewarding 40-year relationship with her husband, Jim, and she was the proud mother of three children, James, Julia, and Caroline; with the passing years, she was blessed with six grandchildren, Lawson, Campbell, Vada, Virginia, Hazel, and Henry; and

WHEREAS, For almost two decades, Ms. Nelson was the music director at Highland Park Baptist Preschool, and over the years, many of her former students stayed in contact; she was a member of Hyde Park Baptist Church for more than 20 years and served as the director of ninth grade Sunday school; later, she joined Austin First Church; she was also president of the Texas State Officials Ladies Club; and

WHEREAS, Although Joanna Nelson is deeply missed, memories of her kind and caring ways will remain a lasting source of inspiration to those she leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Joanna J. Heffington Nelson and extend sincere sympathy to her family 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 Joanna Heffington Nelson.