

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of southeast Houston lost a beloved
2 community activist and civic leader with the passing of Marie
3 Flickinger on November 11, 2024, at the age of 82; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on September 1, 1942,
5 to Alexander and Mary Spence, the former Marie Spence grew up with
6 the companionship of two siblings, Morris and Alexis; after
7 graduating from high school, she exchanged wedding vows with David
8 Flickinger in 1962, and the pair went on to share in the joy of
9 raising two sons, Fred and David; her family later grew to include
10 three granddaughters, Kimberly, Courtney, and Natalie, as well as
11 seven great-grandchildren, Abigail, Jackson, Penelope, Kelvin,
12 Noah, Elliana, and Isabella; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Flickinger and her husband resided in Minnesota
14 before relocating to the Houston area, where they eventually
15 settled in the Sagemont subdivision; in addition to being a
16 homemaker, she found her way into the journalism field when she was
17 recruited by an editor for the *Friendswood News*; after gaining
18 experience reporting on issues in the South Belt/Ellington
19 community and Pasadena ISD, she joined a friend, Bobby Griffin, in
20 co-founding the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*, and she served the
21 weekly newspaper as publisher until her passing; and

22 WHEREAS, Through the years, Mrs. Flickinger developed a
23 reputation as a tireless advocate for her community, earning the
24 moniker "the mayor of South Belt"; although she covered hundreds of

1 news stories throughout her career, she was perhaps best known for a
2 series of investigative articles that exposed the dumping of toxic
3 waste at the Brio Superfund site in the 1980s, and her central role
4 in uncovering the scale of contamination in its neighboring
5 subdivision led to her being tapped to serve as the Environmental
6 Protection Agency's community liaison for the site; for many years,
7 she was also integral in securing infrastructure improvements to
8 mitigate flooding, including the construction of the South Belt
9 Stormwater Detention Basin; and

10 WHEREAS, During the 1990s, Mrs. Flickinger had the
11 distinction of being the first woman to be elected to the San
12 Jacinto College Board of Trustees, where she served for nearly 30
13 years before recently retiring as its chair; among her many
14 achievements, she was a founding member and inaugural president of
15 the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, and she oversaw the
16 introduction of an Early College High School program in Pasadena
17 ISD, for which the district named her its Distinguished Citizen of
18 the Year in 2015; moreover, she was known for organizing community
19 events such as the annual Fourth of July parade and Christmas drive
20 for the needy, and she demonstrated her strong Catholic faith as a
21 parishioner at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church and later as one
22 of the founding members of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. Flickinger was inducted into the Hall of Honor
25 at Dobie High School in 2015 and received the M. Dale Ensign Trustee
26 Leadership Award from the Association of Community College Trustees
27 in 2013; she was also recognized by Governor Greg Abbott with the

1 Governor's Volunteer Award for her role in coordinating emergency
2 relief efforts during Hurricane Harvey; and

3 WHEREAS, Through her widespread civic contributions, Marie
4 Flickinger had a profound and positive impact on her community, and
5 those she leaves behind will continue to find inspiration in their
6 memories of this extraordinary woman; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Marie Flickinger and
9 extend deepest sympathy to the members of her family: to her
10 husband, David Flickinger; to her sons, Fred Flickinger and his
11 wife, Leslie, and David Flickinger and his wife, Ellie; to her
12 granddaughters, Kimberly Lipina and her husband, Matthew, Courtney
13 Durham, and Natalie Abarca and her husband, Jose; to her
14 great-grandchildren, Abigail, Jackson, and Penelope Durham, Kelvin
15 Lopez, Noah and Elliana Abarca, and Isabella Delgado and her
16 husband, Sebastian; to her siblings, Morris Spence and Alexis
17 Lochner; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Marie
21 Flickinger.

Paul

H.R. No. 870

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 870 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 23, 2025.

Chief Clerk of the House