

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 682

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends were deeply saddened by the  
2 passing of Frances Elaine Cowen of Tyler on April 13, 2025, at the  
3 age of 85; and

4 WHEREAS, Frances Jones was born in El Dorado, Arkansas, on  
5 October 4, 1939, to Oliver Louis Jones and Eunice McCartney Jones;  
6 she grew up with the companionship of five brothers and one sister,  
7 and she graduated from Chapel Hill High School in Tyler; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the course of her life, Frances was blessed  
9 with a large and loving family; she had four sons, Douglas, Derek,  
10 Stephen, and Kenneth, with her first husband, Edward Thomas Gilpin;  
11 later, she and her husband of 50 years, Kenneth D. Cowen, welcomed  
12 two daughters, Amy and Emily, and she also became stepmother to his  
13 children, Ken, Mary, and Tammy; and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Cowen began her career as a proofreader and  
15 typesetter at the *Dallas Times Herald*, and she also worked in  
16 advertising and data entry; once her daughters were in high school,  
17 she returned to school herself and earned a bachelor's degree in  
18 psychology; she went on to complete a master's degree in special  
19 education, and she taught in the Mesquite Independent School  
20 District until she retired; and

21 WHEREAS, A woman of deep faith, Mrs. Cowen was an active  
22 member of Tyler Tabernacle United Pentecostal Church and Abundant  
23 Life Temple in Gladewater; she cherished time spent with her  
24 numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and she also

1 enjoyed traveling, reading, and playing dominoes; and

2 WHEREAS, Frances Cowen lived a life that was rich in family  
3 and friends, and those who were privileged to share in her love and  
4 affection will forever hold her close in their hearts; now,  
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature  
7 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Frances Elaine Cowen and extend  
8 sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her sister, Nora  
9 Porter; to her children, Douglas Gilpin and his wife, Claudia,  
10 Derek Gilpin and his wife, Peggy, Stephen Gilpin and his wife,  
11 Karran, Amy Clardy, and Emily Starkey and her husband, Buddy; to her  
12 stepchildren, Ken Thompson and his wife, Reba, Mary Tyner, and  
13 Tammy Campbell; to her 13 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren;  
14 and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this  
17 day, it do so in memory of Frances Cowen.