

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 WHEREAS, Residents of Texarkana lost an admired civic leader
3 with the passing of Martha Leah Williams Morriss on April 6, 2019,
4 at the age of 92; and

5 WHEREAS, The daughter of Jeffie and Isaac Williams, the
6 former Martha Williams was born in Mount Pleasant on June 13, 1926,
7 and grew up with two brothers, Bill and Jim; her family moved to
8 Texarkana when she was 10, and after graduating from Texas High
9 School, she completed her bachelor's degree in mathematics at
10 Randolph-Macon Woman's College; on December 31, 1948, she married
11 Joshua Rutland Morriss Jr., and they were blessed with three sons,
12 Josh, Don, and William; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Morriss gave back to her fellow citizens
14 through her support for many worthwhile organizations; she served
15 as president of the Junior League of Texarkana, and she was
16 instrumental in the founding of the Texarkana Regional Arts and
17 Humanities Council; in addition, she generously shared her time and
18 talents with the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, the Literary Council
19 of Bowie and Miller Counties, and numerous educational endeavors;
20 widely admired for her contributions to the cultural scene, she was
21 appointed to the Texas Commission on the Arts; together with her
22 husband, she also played a key role in the establishment of MRC
23 Cornerstone Retirement Community; and

24 WHEREAS, The Texarkana Independent School District

1 recognized Mr. and Mrs. Morriss for their exceptional efforts in
2 behalf of education by naming the Martha and Josh Morriss
3 Mathematics & Engineering Elementary School in their honor;
4 moreover, in 2015 the district named the couple Distinguished
5 Alumni and acknowledged Mrs. Morriss for her education advocacy and
6 her work to benefit the TRAHC ArtSmart program, which brings the
7 arts to schools; over the years, she was the recipient of myriad
8 other accolades, including the C. E. Palmer Award for community
9 service from the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce; and

10 WHEREAS, For more than a half century, Mrs. Morriss taught
11 the Fellowship Sunday school class at Williams Memorial United
12 Methodist Church, and every summer, she organized Bible Storytime
13 for Vacation Bible School; she served on the Perkins School of
14 Theology Executive Board, and she and Mr. Morriss delivered Holy
15 Communion to shut-ins together as well; and

16 WHEREAS, Martha Morriss lived a rich and purposeful life
17 centered on her family, her faith, and her community, and she will
18 long be remembered with deep affection by all who knew her; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
21 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Martha Leah Williams Morriss and
22 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her
23 husband, Josh Morriss Jr.; to her sons, Josh Morriss III and his
24 wife, Diana, Don Morriss and his wife, Patsy, and William Morriss
25 and his wife, Rita; to her grandchildren, Meredith and David
26 Farren, Susannah and Daniel Linnett, Marjorie and Chad Matthews,
27 Allison and Brady Wright, Whitney and Ross Ormond, Melanie and Ben

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1 Tkach, and Brad and Goodwin McCutcheon; to her 15
2 great-grandchildren; to her special niece, Joan Baldrige-Ballard;
3 and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House and Senate
6 adjourn this day, they do so in memory of Martha Leah Williams
7 Morriss.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 62 was adopted by the Senate
on May 8, 2019, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 62 was adopted by the House
on May 17, 2019, by a rising vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

6-3-2019
Date

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

O'CLOCK

JUN 04 2019

Secretary of State