HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Laura Bush has combined a gentle graciousness and elegance with a passion for causes of the most fundamental importance, and her fellow Texans are proud to claim her as one of their own; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Midland, the former Laura Lane Welch graduated with a degree in education from Southern Methodist University in 1968 and earned a master of library science degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1973; she worked as a teacher and librarian in Dallas, Houston, and Austin before marrying George W. Bush in Midland in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Keenly aware that an ability to read is vital to a child's ability to learn, Mrs. Bush launched major initiatives to promote literacy skills among children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, after becoming the First Lady of Texas in 1995; in related undertakings, she introduced programs to foster parenting skills and encourage communities to develop family literacy programs; she was also instrumental in founding the Texas Book Festival, which premiered in 1996; a fund-raiser for Texas public libraries, the gathering now ranks as one of the foremost literary festivals in the country; and

WHEREAS, While living in the Governor's Mansion, Mrs. Bush additionally advocated for breast cancer and Alzheimer's awareness and research; she also opened several Rainbow Rooms, which provide emergency supplies for abused and neglected children, and she
promoted a private-sector effort to provide additional resources to
caseworkers with Child Protective Services; and

WHEREAS, With her husband's swearing in as the 43rd president
of the United States in January 2001, Mrs. Bush immediately began
work; before the year was out, she had hosted, with sponsorship from
the Library of Congress, the first National Book Festival; since
its inception, attendance at that event has risen from
approximately 30,000 to more than 120,000; in November 2001,
Mrs. Bush also hosted the inaugural White House Salute to America's
Authors; and

WHEREAS, During her husband's presidency, Mrs. Bush
supported an array of programs intended to ensure that all young
children are ready to read and learn when they enter school and that
they have qualified, well-trained teachers, especially in the
poorest neighborhoods; she hosted two White House summits in
connection with that initiative, as well as White House Conferences
on School Libraries and Global Literacy, and she championed
legislation to address a national shortage of librarians; in 2003,
she was named an Honorary Ambassador for the United Nations Decade
of Literacy; and

WHEREAS, In conjunction with her Women's Health and Wellness
Initiative, Mrs. Bush served as national ambassador for the Heart
Truth campaign to raise awareness about heart disease among women,
and she worked closely with the Susan G. Komen for the Cure breast
cancer awareness and research campaign; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bush made numerous goodwill trips abroad,
including several to Africa, during which she promoted HIV/AIDS and
malaria awareness; she has advocated for women's rights in the
Middle East and has spoken out forcefully in support of the
pro-democracy movement in Myanmar; and

WHEREAS, Among the many honors she has received have been
awards from the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, the
Kuwait-America Foundation, the American Library Association,
Vanderbilt University, and Christian Freedom International; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bush is the mother of twin daughters, Jenna and
Barbara, who graduated in 2004 from UT-Austin and Yale University,
respectively, and she and President Bush have recently welcomed a
son-in-law, Jenna's husband, Henry Hager, into the family; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, Americans and people the world
over have come to know Laura Bush as a devoted wife, loving mother,
and deeply engaged citizen and humanitarian, and in both Austin and
the nation's capital, she leaves behind an inspiring legacy in her
role as First Lady; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
hereby warmly welcome Laura Bush back to Texas and extend to her its
deep gratitude for her exceptional public service; and, be it
further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
prepared for Mrs. Bush as an expression of high regard by the Texas
House of Representatives and Senate.

Anderson
Miller of Erath
President of the Senate

I certify that H.C.R. No. 63 was adopted by the House on March 12, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 63 was adopted by the Senate on May 19, 2009, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 19 Jun 09

Date

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

1:00 o'clock

Jun 19 2009

Colin Smither