

SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE — THIRD CALLED SESSION

AUSTIN, TEXAS

PROCEEDINGS

FOURTH DAY

(Continued)

(Tuesday, October 5, 2021)

AFTER RECESS

The Senate met at 1:00 p.m. and was called to order by President Pro Tempore Campbell.

Senator Birdwell offered the invocation as follows:

Father, we humbly come before You, ask You for Your wisdom, grace, mercy, courage, that You pour Your spirit out upon our nation and our state, as the great physician, Your hand of healing upon us spiritually and physically. Christ's name I pray. Amen. Hooah.

SENATE RESOLUTION 53

Senator Zaffirini offered the following resolution:

SR 53, In memory of Lilia Solis Flores.

The resolution was read.

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, **SR 53** was adopted by a rising vote of the Senate.

In honor of the memory of Lilia Solis Flores, the text of the resolution is printed at the end of today's *Senate Journal*.

(President in Chair)

SENATE RESOLUTION 39

Senator Huffman offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas takes great pride in paying tribute to Senator Jane Nelson for her 28 years of pioneering leadership and exceptional service on behalf of Texas citizens; and

WHEREAS, A widely respected and much beloved public leader, Jane Nelson enjoyed careers as an educator and a businesswoman before her election to the legislature to represent Senate District 12; she has served the constituents of the district's counties with integrity and dedication for 10 consecutive terms, and she is bringing to a close her distinguished tenure as the longest-serving Republican senator; and

WHEREAS, Jane Nelson first began serving the citizens of Texas in 1988, when she was elected to serve as a member of the Texas State Board of Education; in 1992, she became the 10th woman and the third Republican woman to be elected to the Texas Senate; six years later, Senator Nelson became the first Republican woman to chair a Senate standing committee when she was appointed chair of the Committee on Health Services, and in 2014, she became the first woman to chair the Senate Committee on Finance; she is ending her trailblazing career of legislative leadership after having written four state budgets; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nelson's extensive list of legislative accomplishments includes establishing the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, reforming medical liability, overhauling the foster care system, expanding access to mental health services, championing 30 pieces of legislation to combat sexual assault and domestic violence, and authoring and supporting numerous bills to the benefit of Texas teachers and students; she is held in high esteem by her colleagues for her professional expertise and bipartisan approach to policymaking, and she is well known for consistently honoring the accomplishments and celebratory milestones of her fellow legislators; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nelson served as president pro tempore during the 78th Interim, and she was Governor for a Day in 2004; she has been honored by such institutions as the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, the Texas Association of Business, and the Texas Council on Family Violence; and

WHEREAS, She has skillfully managed the duties of a senator and has taken care of the needs of her constituents while continuing to be a source of strength to her large and loving family; she is a devoted wife to J. Michael Nelson, and she is a loving mother to their five children and a doting grandmother to their 12 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Jane Nelson has been a trusted voice for her North Texas community and a tireless advocate for women, children, veterans, and the elderly in Texas; she has shaped policy that has ensured government efficiency while improving the lives of all Texans, and her proud legacy of service will continue to benefit citizens long into the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor Senator Jane Nelson for her many contributions to the State of Texas and for her outstanding service as a Texas senator; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of high esteem from the Texas Senate.

HUFFMAN
WHITMIRE

SR 39 was read.

On motion of Senator Zaffirini and by unanimous consent, the names of the Lieutenant Governor and Senators were added to the resolution as signers thereof.

On motion of Senator Huffman, the resolution was adopted by a rising vote of the Senate.

REMARKS ORDERED PRINTED

On motion of Senator Whitmire and by unanimous consent, the remarks regarding **SR 39** were ordered reduced to writing and printed in the *Senate Journal* as follows:

President: Senator Huffman on the resolution.

Senator Huffman: Thank you very much and I see Senator Nelson already weeping back here so I'm going to try really hard to make it through this little speech I'm about to make. And you know, Senator Nelson, I have some notes and I wanted to speak from the heart, which you know I will be. But I needed some notes, I thought that may help me not cry, so. We've heard the resolution, Members, and we all know so much what Senator Nelson has done for the State of Texas. Her accomplishments are, I couldn't begin to name them, I'm afraid to start naming because I'll probably leave out something that's important to you and important to your constituents. But I think what I associate with you most is your accomplishments in passing CPRIT. And I know you have told me that story so many times. I'm sure she's shared the story with all of you, and you did that at great, a lot of political capital. It was hard and persistence and work. And look what it led to, you literally have affected the lives of millions of people. And I know you often say that when you retire, and you're not retiring now, but you're going to sit on the porch and rock. And that's what you'll tell your grandchildren, right, is the accomplishment of CPRIT. And that, again, there's many more. I think about what you've done for mental health, which you know is a passion of mine as well, and children's mental health, which is something you've done more recently. And I watch as that is just developing through the state and it's starting to be more funded. And that will be something in a decade, most of us won't be here, some will, but we'll sit here and we'll think that was Jane Nelson who did that, and it will make a real difference in the lives of thousands and thousands of Texans, children and their families and how we cope with such an important and heartbreaking issue in our state. But it's because of your vision and your work. So, you've done so many things for the state. Your beautiful family, of course, which was spoke of in the resolution, you know, Mike, she speaks of you all the time, all of her children, her grandchildren. Just today, a few minutes ago she read me a text that she had received from Andrew and it was just heartwarming and she shared it. And I know many of you, all of you in here, have had the pleasure of sitting with Senator Nelson when she shared something personal about her family, and just something that made us connect with you. But as I think about your contributions to the Senate and what you've done, I think about your role as a mentor. Because I think we can all say, and I know you'd all agree with me, has Jane Nelson not sat down with you and helped you solve a problem or give you her wisdom or share an experience with her that has made you be able to do your job better? I think that's a sign of a fabulous Senator, a fabulous person. I think back to my very first session, I didn't know anything about the Legislature. I had never been in the Legislature, I got lost in the Capitol every day. I'd have to text my staff, I don't know where I am, and they'd have to come find me. And I remember we went to the first Republican Senate Caucus, it was at the Austin Club. I didn't know, I had tried to memorize the names of the Senators by looking at their pictures. I literally did not know people. But you were

there and there was a cast of characters back then including Troy Fraser and Dan Patrick. And I remember that Troy Fraser lit into Dan Patrick because of some antic, I'm sure it was a wonderful one, something that you, something that he had done in the previous session, and it was, they were at each other, you know, and other people were yelling, and I'm sure you could see the look on my face. And you took me aside and you said, that's just Troy, he's just putting on a show. You know, it's just a bunch of chest thumping or something. Right? And that's when you took me under your wing because I was terrified, and honestly I was terrified of you, you know, because you were, you were so accomplished and so well respected. So, over the years, as many of us have, I've watched you and I've learned. I've looked at your work ethic, you work so hard, and we could all learn from that. You're charming, you're smart, and you've made us all better. And you're also a lot of fun, a lot of fun. Some of the best times I've had is back here in this corner just belly laughing because usually it's something that Senator Whitmire said. Right? And we have laughed about it so many times. I think about us walking the streets of London, Paris, Madrid, shopping. I wore this dress today in memory of our shopping trip in Italy where you saw this dress in the window and you said, Huffman, you got to go in there and buy that dress. You're just a lot of fun and we, as I said, we've all learned from you and I'm thinking about things I've learned from you. So many things, but you've made me a better person, a better Senator, you've been a wonderful friend. You've taught me just how to exist in this Chamber. Some of the other things you've taught me, never, never, a lady never walks through a bar with a drink in her hand. And even when you're not here I'm going to think of something, remember something you always say to me, and you said it to me yesterday. You looked at me and you said, put on your lipstick and keep smiling, darlin'. And I'll always remember that. Thank you.

President: Senator Whitmire, would you like to go next as the co-author of the resolution?

Senator Whitmire: Thank you, Mr. President and Members, and thank you, Senator Huffman. I will go a little further back just because I was here when Senator Nelson got here. She had beaten one of Bob Bullock's lieutenants. Not very well received. And I was probably on the Bullock team, but I didn't have the standing to bully, plus it's just not in my nature, DNA. But we were in the annex, after the fire we went to the Clements building, and it was about a third of this size so we were really on top of one another and spent large number of hours with each other. So, Senator Nelson got here after beating Bob Glasgow so he was Bullock's lieutenant so she was not very well received, and it was no secret that his team, Carl Parker and others, were planning on making her life miserable. So, they attempted to bully her but it didn't go very far, so first thing you notice about Jane is she wasn't afraid of anybody in 1993, including Carl Parker. And she learned quickly, payback will get you in trouble. She and Shapiro, who was also a freshman, voted against Bullock's and John Montford's budget in 1993. The only two Members in '93 to vote against the Senate budget. And you just didn't do that back in those days and probably shouldn't even do it today. But that got everyone's attention. And I've got to name her freshman class was Greg Luna, Frank Madla, Jerry Patterson, Florence Shapiro, Dan Shelley, Jeff Wentworth, and Royce West. And only West will remain in the freshman class after Nelson's departure. They moved to her current seat in what became known as the power corner

after she arrived, when we moved back into the Capitol. So, since 1995 she has literally made me a better Senator. And I thank you, because most of what I say in this corner doesn't get on the official record. So, thank you. Of all the instances I could revisit, the night of the filibuster, Wendy's, it was, things were out of control, and she was trying to keep me under control. It was wild. But the one that I want to share and I could literally filibuster my career with Jane, but 2001, in the last week of the session, I got a call from a very respected road contractor in Houston. He said, I've never asked you for anything but you've got to kill a local bill that will literally kill one of my road projects in Denton County. And I said, well, you just don't kill local bills. I said, but whose is it? He said, Jane Nelson's. I said, oh, Lord. She sits next to me and she's tough. But 2001, I was not as wise as I would be today. I would have just got up and say I can't do it. You just don't kill people's local bills, and I'm sure not going to kill Jane Nelson's and have to live with her the rest of my life. But I did it and she got mad and had a right to be mad because her staff had not listed it on the general calendar. Some time in the closing days if you kill someone's local bill or something on the local calendar, if their staffs put it on the general, you can still pass that piece of legislation, but her new staff had not listed it on the general calendar. So, she wouldn't speak to me in the closing days of the session, but on sine die, Ratliff was our presiding officer, everyone was in a pretty good mood, 2001 one of my best friend, deskmate, was not treating me like, oh, she was, she was quitting me. So, I stood up on sine die, unrehearsed, without Lara's advice, and I just knew I had to do something so I stood up in a good moment said, Mr. President, I've got to, I've got to fix something and I don't know what in the Constitution or in the Senate Rules I got to suspend. I want to suspend everything and pass Senator Nelson's bill prohibiting a rock quarry in Denton County. It took unanimous consent and everyone went along and we passed that bill and things have been chummy ever since. And another lesson, you know I've said numerous, numerous times, if you, you need to be nice to every Senator because you never know, one, they might become Lieutenant Governor. But, number two, you need to be nice to everyone, Members, because they might become Chairman of Finance. Because in '93, if you had told me Jane Nelson was going to pass our budget this year, 31 to nothing, \$281 billion budget, I would have not imagined that. And I still think that's probably one of the biggest accomplishments of this session. You brought us together, you include everyone, there's a real model there to include everyone and pass a piece of legislation 31 to nothing. But, Members, of all the work product and the leadership in the Senate that I could reflect on and tell you what a great job you've done, is watching you raise five children, 12 grandchildren, I think the grandchildren pretty much why you and I've been back here in this back corner. She has done an outstanding job and has an outstanding partner in Mike, but the 12 grandchildren I've watched raise. I got to know your father, Robert Gray, who was a World War II veteran. He has a Franklin Roosevelt keepsake, I think he was a Democrat until Jane married Mike. And, but I've got that keepsake and I've tried to give it back to her. It was, it was a little glass canter, decanter that Roosevelt handed out in his campaign. I've got it in my office, and I've tried to give it back, I'm still going to give it to one of her grandkids if they'll appreciate a Democratic keepsake. But you're 28 years in the Senate, I've watched Andrew, watched Andrea, I've watched the family unit hold together. She watched my kids grow up on the Senate

floor so that is what's special. And I've said it before and I'll say it again, it's the relationships that you make, the friends for life that you make, is what is so special to be in the State Senate. With that said, we will celebrate your, your career, your birthday, later today at your event, but you've really been a model for what a State Senator, the growth, the bipartisanship when you needed to reach out. Like last night, it was an amazing to have the patience with the folks that came and every one of them were important, but you made it possible for them to have their testimony entered into the record. So, Mr. President, I'm proud to sign this resolution, sponsor it. But we will miss you, and also, I've got to go ahead and say, you've always been nice to me, but I don't know what you're going to do next. You're not going to retire with all your experience and knowledge and context. Whatever you're going to do next, and I don't think it'd be lobbying, but you'll be running some institution, something, but you're going to need the Senate because I've noticed you even getting nicer to me since you've left. So, I can't wait to see how that plays out, but wherever you land, you know you'll always have an open door with all the Members of the Senate and the leadership. So, thank you, Mr. President and Members.

President: Thank you, Senator Whitmire. There will be great void to fill, of course, when she leaves. The biggest question will be who's going to sit next to you and keep you under control when she's gone. That will be the, that will be the hardest challenge. Senator Zaffirini, you're recognized.

Senator Zaffirini: Thank you, Mr. President. Don't tempt me, I might move over there just to make his life miserable.

President: Can we have a motion on that, Members?

Senator Zaffirini: Mr. President and Members, it is my pleasure to rise to pay tribute to our friend, Jane Nelson. I remember the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who wrote so long ago, nothing great has ever been accomplished without enthusiasm. And thinking back, Senator Nelson, to the day we met at the freshman orientation when you were first elected and came in 1993, only Senator Whitmire, Senator Lucio, and I were here when you arrived. And you were so enthusiastic, so bubbly, so interested, so dynamic, so eager to learn. It's amazing that 28 years later you still have that enthusiasm. You're still bubbly, you're still so interested in learning because you have learned so much but truly are a lifelong learner. What's more, you are a lifelong teacher, once a teacher always a teacher. And that is the talent that you have shared with everyone who has served with you in the Texas Senate, not only to express and to demonstrate what you have learned but to teach others, to show the way, to accomplish, to be better Senators, to participate. And I have served with other Chairs of Finance Committee and other committees but you, Senator Nelson, have distinguished yourself as the Chair of Finance. You have made people happy to vote for the budget even when we hate parts of it. Even when we hate parts of it because people have been at the table, which is totally different from other processes at other times. You have truly been inclusive, and for that reason we certainly appreciate your leadership. One of the things I most like about you is that you helped change the standard for how men and women behave in the Texas Senate. You expressed and demonstrated the standard that you are as good a wife and mother, and later grandmother, as you are a Senator. And you hold men to the same standard. You

helped set that standard. That wasn't the case many, many years ago, that the men of the Senate should also be good husbands, good sons, good fathers, and good grandfathers depending on the definition of their family. That has been a total change in the Texas Senate over the years and you were at the forefront of the movement to change that standard. Senator Nelson, we will miss you. We will miss your being president of the grandparents club, honorary president perhaps, after you leave. And we will miss not only you but your family, your wonderful husband, your children, and your grandchildren. And you know, Members, that every year I give everybody a cup for the session. She gets six for her family every year from the beginning because what she wants for herself, she wants for her family, and what she wants for her family, she wants for your children and mine. Senator Nelson, thank you for your leadership, thank you for your example, thank you for your friendship. I know you will always be as enthusiastic in everything you do as you have been in the Texas Senate. Truly, you will leave a legacy as perhaps the single most powerful Member of the Senate ever. To quote Mike Hailey, when you talk about power in the halls of the Legislature, there is Jane Nelson and then there is everybody else. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

President: Senator Zaffirini, thank you, Senator Zaffirini, and with your comment about moving over there, you're going to keep Whitmire up at nights until the next session. Senator Lucio, you are recognized.

Senator Lucio: Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, rise to join my colleagues to congratulate this lovely Texas lady. Oh wow, where do you start? I was privileged to be here with the Dean, our leader in the Senate, with our Vice-dean, Senator Zaffirini, to welcome this outstanding freshman class. That's what it's been, an outstanding freshmen class. Senator West and those that came in that year, I've watched you all just do great things, but the greatest thing that the Senate has done is come together as one Senate family, working as hard as we can for the people of our great state. You know you will, I will always remember you as Juanita, Juanita la bonita. For those of you who don't know, Senator Nelson's bilingual. She taught me Spanish, remember she's a teacher. We had some great conversations in Spanish in the lounge and when we had a break in committee. We worked in so many committees together. And in Finance, I had the pleasure, as Senator Hinojosa did, to sit next to you couple of sessions now. I am very, very pleased that I've been able to listen to you and learn from you, a little closer by than usual. It takes a lot of hours, a lot of hard work, a lot of preparation, and incredible commitment that you have made and all of us had witnessed that. I think, when I think of you, I think of, as Senator Zaffirini said, a very strong woman who doesn't mind to tell people how she feels. Probably nobody else will mention in here today, but you're against gambling. You know, that takes a lot of backbone to say no to gambling even though the majority of the people might want it. You have a sincere feeling about what might come about that in the future, and how it would negatively affect the families of this state and on. I understand, as a matter of fact, I was the only one that voted against the lottery in 1991. Not because, and I know you would have done the same thing, not because I didn't want the people of Texas to vote on it, it just that we had promised that it would go, the proceeds would go to public education. And they did not, did they, Senator Nelson? So, later on you fixed that, didn't you? You carried the bill that ensured that those funds would go,

whatever proceeds were left over, would go to public education. There's so many accomplishments we could, and I'm urging you to write the book, because there's some wonderful things that we can learn from you still yet. We know you have a great husband, a great family, and, Mike, I know that you're going to spend some time in the Valley because you have family there in Weslaco, Texas, and a great history. And I just want to let you both know today that you can come and put your feet in the ocean any time in my district. I'll be there to bring you the towel. You can dry yourself. Seriously speaking, this is a great moment that allows us, as your amigos and amigas, to be able, to be able to stand, express our appreciation to the wonderful things that you have done for the people of our state, the opportunities that you brought that weren't seen when we first started way back in '91, '93. But I think your support of life is something that I have always looked into your eyes when we address those issues. And you respect everyone on this floor equally, and that's important. I know that because you hug everyone on this floor. I don't think you missed anybody. And that to me shows the kind of human being you are, a very warm person, a person that loves his fellow man and will continue to your last breath to make a difference to your family, your community, and most importantly to God. Thank you, Jane Nelson, Juanita.

President: Thank you, Senator. Senator West.

Senator West: Thank you very much, Mr. President. You know, out of all of the Members in this body, I go further back with Senator Nelson and Mike because all of us went to college together. That's how far back we go. When I think about us coming into the Legislature together, I've got to think about Florence Shapiro. I've got to think about Florence Shapiro and John Whitmire making Florence Shapiro cry. You remember that? You remember that, don't you, John? Yeah, those are fake tears, okay. But I'm also reminded of you coming in and the whole class coming in and you having the resolve to vote against the budget. That took a lot of resolve or a lot of stupidity. Which one was it? It was resolve when we know it was resolve. And only to become first woman in the history of the State of Texas, I believe, to be the Chair of the Finance Committee. You've presided over four budgets now, were able to bring people together on both sides of the aisle in order to get it done. You chaired Health and Human Services 14 years. And I'm reminded of all of the things that you have done for the mental health community and to deal with mental health issues in the State of Texas, making certain that the resources got there and they were deployed correctly will benefit generations yet unborn. And Senator Zaffirini's correct, once a teacher always a teacher. When we talked about issues of education, you were right there. Let's talk about the fun side. Let's talk about some R&B. Okay? Tonight everything goes on video even though we're not supposed to have cameras. Now, I do have something, though, that I want to share with everyone. You recall Senator Nelson having a picture, Senator Johnson, of this buff guy who played football way back when? And then all of a sudden, we started getting a bunch of pictures of athletes, Senator Creighton, you remember? And she had a little poster board up but notice she never had her picture up there. Right? Well, guess what I have today. That's right. I have not only your picture, no, I don't have the hot pants one. Okay. Not only the hot, I don't have the hot pants, but I have a couple of pictures that ultimately I'm

going to share with the entire Senate on a poster board. I have a picture of Senator Nelson when she was seven years old as a little cheerleader. I'm not, a little research, just a little research.

Senator Nelson: I'm twirling.

Senator West: You were twirling, exactly. Okay? As a twirler, you see that, see that Senator Nelson, Nichols? I have a picture of her also when she was a senior in high school, twirling, and I think you were a national, you won a national competition twirling. I'm a lawyer, Ma'am. I do research. Okay. Alright. You don't know what else I have either. Okay? I won't bring that up today. But I want to make certain that all of you see this picture of our friend, our colleague, Jane Nelson, as she was growing up and she was competitive at the age of seven, won a national championship in twirling at age 16 or 17 years old. Fifteen, oh excuse me, at 15 years old, national championship. Jane, as your classmate, as your friend, you are leaving the Senate as an official Member, but you'll always be a Member of this body. You'll always have a cup of coffee in my office, and hopefully you will continue to take my telephone calls. Okay, because you have a great deal of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of this body that, just as Senator Huffman mentioned a few moments ago, that some of the Members that have just got here, just got here last four or five years, some of us has been here for 27 years, that wisdom and knowledge will benefit us as we continue to represent our constituents, even this body. I look forward to some Temptations tonight, alright, and a few dances up here. Mike, job well done. And one thing I want to make certain that you, y'all continue to do as a family, every year you would always have a picture of your family and you'd send out Christmas cards. Right? And the family continued to grow and grow and grow and grow. I look forward to getting that Christmas card in the years to come, because that's one, as with all of the Members of the Senate, that I always have treasured to look at because it's the epitome of a woman that knows that family comes first, still able to make certain that that's taken care of, and do all of the other things that you've done. God has blessed you, and God is going to keep you.

President: Senator West, I'm trying to do this in the dates of service. I may not get all of these exactly right as we go through. We knew the Members who were here in the beginning. Senator Hinojosa, I believe you're next up in your time with Senator Nelson.

Senator Hinojosa: Thank you, Mr. President. And everything that's been said about you is true about you being a leader, a mentor, and a friend to all of us. You always talk about your grandchildren, you talk about your family. And I didn't know when you were a cheerleader, but I've seen the pictures of you being a cheerleader. And they're amazing pictures. But you know I also served as your Vice-chair for three sessions, and you really were a very fair person, very focused, very disciplined. And you treated everyone the same, with dignity and respect. And I, it didn't make a difference whether you were a Republican or Democrat, you would listen to the needs of our districts. And that's important. You will help us and assist us and try to identify the funds to make sure that we took care of the priorities that were important to us. But I do remember when you were on Finance and I was on Finance before you were Chair, and you were carrying a Senate resolution to get the voters to approve \$6

billion for cancer research, CPRIT. And we, chairman at that time was Steve Ogden, and he was not too supportive of that resolution, and you didn't have the votes. Because I remember come and talk to me if I would vote for it, and I said I will vote for it and I'll help you get votes. And you wouldn't give up because initially the votes were not there. And she persuaded every Member of the Finance Committee to support your resolution and now we have CPRIT, cancer research that is helping many people address and try to find ways to conquer cancer. I will always remember that because I always anytime you mention CPRIT or mention cancer or a new way of treating cancer and the death rate continues to decline, I remember your work, your leadership. And then when you became Chair and I was your Vice-chair, I really admired the way you were so patient with Senators, like Senator Whitmire, that kept interrupting you when you were trying to run the committee. I remember you putting up and allowing Senator West to continue asking questions after question after question after question. And you smiled in there and continued just being very patient. That is really a, so important and your patience that you had. And it made you a great Chair of Finance because you know one of the things you did, you were always smiling. And you're right, Senator Huffman, she always has a smile even when they criticize or try to take you on. I know when I seen that and I still remember one night when we were in conference committee working late that night trying to do the budget with the House, and I won't mention any names, but somebody walked in and opened the door and said I want to see you now. And yet, you dealt with very difficult issues, very complex issues, but you did it with class and with knowledge. And to me, I consider you a mentor, a friend, and a leader. I know your whole family, Mike, she talks about family all the time, her grandkids, I mean she's so happy. It's really amazing that she radiates love and being positive. You never see her down even when we're in Finance on meeting some of the challenges of trying to put a budget together. And Senator Zaffirini's correct, even though we did not like certain parts of the budget we would vote for the budget, all 31 Senators, because of her leadership, because of who she was and the way she treated all of us with such dignity and respect, and for that I'm very grateful. We will miss your leadership here in the Senate. And I know that you are only retiring from the Senate because you have so much to give. You have so many, so much experience, so much knowledge that you'll continue making a contribution to our state. And I agree with Senator West, I hope you keep sending out those Christmas cards every year because the family continues to expand and grow and that's good. Thank you, my friend, and I love you.

President: Thank you, Senator Hinojosa. And that wasn't me that opened that door, I know better. Senator Nichols, I want to get that on the record, Senator Nichols.

Senator Nichols: Thank you, Mr. President. I have not known you as long as the previous five. I've only known you for 24 years. The first time I met you, of course, is when I was getting appointed to the TxDOT Commission. And, just to be safe, I made sure I made the rounds and tried to visit with every Senator, scared to death, you don't know who's who like Joan was talking about. And you, I found in that meeting that you were very inquisitive. You asked a lot of questions and talked about a lot of the problems that needed to be worked on. But it was not until I got in the Senate, oh shortly thereafter, after the session was over, you invited me to go up to your district and that area. You wanted me to speak to some of your constituents, their delegation,

on the nor- to me it was on the northwest side of Dallas at about 5:30, knowing I would have to drive all the way through the Metroplex in five o'clock traffic, which you can't do. And when I mentioned it, you said and that's why I wanted you here at 5:30. And that was the whole purpose of me coming up there is to show me. So, that's when I found out you had a sense of humor. When I got in the Senate, I asked to be on Health and Human Services and you were chairing it. I think I served on that somewhere around six or eight years. And that's when I really got to know you so much better and the way you work and the way that you had that unique leadership ability to not make people work but make people want to work. We so much wanted to please you, and that is a rare talent, to dig in more, come up with a better answer, surely there's a better way, and you would inspire all of us to do that. And so, in the work that I saw on that committee, we would meet right there. And Joan Huffman said it right, you have touched and improved the lives of millions of people, old and young, from the actions and the work that you did just that committee alone, let alone so many of the other things that you have done. But my freshman year, when you get to choose your first desk, this one was available. I really wanted even thinking, yes, she's doing what I was told and fixing to say. And ever since I've been in the Senate, I've been in front of her getting those thumps. When it was thump, thump, before you make a decision on that one, let me tell you something. And it's been fun. And she's very conservative, and I know y'all know that but we got to comparing our noes and there was a young Senator named Dan Patrick, I think on the same row. I'm trying to remember who was on the front, Glenn Hegar, who's now our Comptroller. We were all very, yeah, so we started comparing our noes and we could, we could kill just about anything from this row. So, we were known as the no row. You need something killed, you come to our row and that's what, we've had a lot of fun with that. But I've enjoyed working with you on so much stuff and the first one was Health and Human Service, but when I came to you, I did not want to get on Finance until you became Chairman. For several sessions, I was asked by some people to get on Finance and I didn't like the way it was run, frankly, but I knew how you worked. So, when you went to chair Finance, I wanted to go to Finance and I was asked to go to Finance and because I knew that you would get the best out of everybody on that committee. And you did. You're also quite fun. Mike, when complicated issues come up, your name pops up quite a bit as a problem solver. And she was concerned when you sold, y'all sold the business, what your next project was going to be, so we constantly were getting updates on the land and the pond and the fish and all these kind of things. So, and I know it's been said several times about your family, but she always talks about y'all. The kids, the grandkids, baby pictures, she loves baby pictures. And so, thank you very much for everything that you've done for us, this body, this state. We love you.

President: Thank you, and Senator Seliger, I didn't see your light or I would have taken you before Senator Nichols. You're next up—

Senator Seliger: That's okay. Thank you.

President: —in seniority.

Senator Seliger: Thank you. Senator Nelson, it has been, you might want to wait to hug him. He don't know what I'm going to say yet. It's been a great pleasure to serve with you for 18 years, and it's interesting thinking back. One of the recurrent themes and one of the things that you have been very intent upon is that this body over its history, has developed a tradition of respectfulness and vision to serve the entire State of Texas and all the people. You've been very insistent that this should be a body that deserves the honors that are heaped upon it by, sometimes by people who don't know what goes on here. It ought to be an exemplary body for bodies like it all over the country and people of the State of Texas. You've been very insistent on that all along. I think in some ways, that it was, it was a momentous occasion historically when you became the first woman to chair Finance. But your being there demonstrated something far more than that. You're preceded by a certified public accountant and a nuclear submariner, and what you proved is gender and experience mean nothing. What matters is competence and vision and hard work and the ability to work with other people. That's what you brought. It has been a very great honor to be here and to have served on your committee, and you have made a difference by being here. We have some portraits I think that probably will come down and be replaced by one of yours. It's been a great honor. Thank you.

President: Thank you, Senator. Senator Birdwell.

Senator Birdwell: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm going to be inadequate to all the other comments that have been made, Madam Queen of the Caucus. Yeah, I remember, Senator Nichols was talking about the no row and when I first came in I was getting thumped by him because I sat where Senator Patrick, so that it was a trickle down thumping that was occurring in the no row. With your departure, there's going to be a big hole over there in the Chamber where you sit. Many times I've sought your wisdom and your counsel, particularly as a baby Senator and, you know, maneuvering on the battlefield and making sure that you pick your fights carefully. But most of all you've taught all of us that if somebody picks one with you, don't ever back up. There were chairs that you chaired that or committees that you chaired that I sat on with you. Sunset in '13-'14, I think it was, and then two sessions on Finance. I sought your counsel when I asked to be the Sunset Chair going into the '19 session. You'd also chaired Nominations, I sought your counsel when I began chairing Nominations as the first committee that I chaired. What I'm trying to tell the body here, is that it isn't just the collegial things that I'm going to remember you for, but it's that wisdom, counsel. You know, Solomon says in Proverbs, many counselors make for wise decisions, but you're always the first person I came to for counsel. So, with your departure there'll be a big hole in that part of the Chamber and then certainly in the Republican Caucus. And that whomever the district chooses to replace you, that hole will never be filled. So, just know how special you are. You know, when I first met you in '06 and then in '07 and you were certainly a part of the reason that I'm sitting in the Chamber, and I'll be forever indebted to you for that. God bless you, Ma'am, in your endeavors, whatever you choose to do in the future. Hooah. Thank you, Ma'am.

President: Senator. Senator Campbell.

Senator Campbell: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you Dean Whitmire and Chairwoman Huffman for bringing this resolution forward for the honorable Chairwoman Jane Nelson. Well, Chairwoman, you have, I've noticed, a firm grip on the gavel but a light touch with interactions. You stand in defense of what's right and you're immovable. Literally, came over and stood with me as I defended the take-your-gun-to-the-hotel bill. And thank you for that demonstration of strength and support. You always have a great smile on your face and a lot of love in your heart, love for your colleagues, Texans, but what shows the most is the love of your husband, your children, and your grandchildren. And that shine, that ebullient personality that we see also reflects the Holy Spirit in you and the love that you have. You were actually the first Texas Senator I ever met. Didn't know much about politics, and I met you in a bathroom, believe it or not, of all places. So, and I would have never thought I would get to know you as I've gotten the honor to know you here. You have shared great wisdom with me and given me solid advice, and that's something I take with me forever. You are the perfect role model for me and for many others. And the best thing is that you are truly a witness for our Lord. Thank you for the legacy that you've left Texas. Thank you for what you've imparted into me. God bless you in your next adventure, not sure what that'll be, but it will be blessed. And happy birthday. We love you.

President: Senator Hancock.

Senator Hancock: Thank you, Mr. President. My friend, my Senator, something I get to say that no one else does. As a school board member, as a House member, you were my Senator, the one we looked up to, the one that when walked into a room in our community, everyone wanted to make sure that they spoke with Senator Nelson. You had that air about you. You, Senator Huffman, you talked about a mentor. I literally grew up in the shadows, the district I serve today, as we honored her at every Senate event and Mike was able to join, were mostly, I'd say 90 percent of that room were your constituents at one point and another. And in fact I, the thing that I remember most of when I decided to run for the Senate and the Governor had talked to me, and that was nice and impressive. But really what got me was the phone call I got from Senator Nelson, as a House member which you don't get as a House member, that said, hey, come over here. And she had a chair by her desk and asked me to sit down and encouraged me to run for the Senate. And so, it was a, today, one of my special moments was that phone call I got from Senator Nelson. You meant that much to our community, the many years that I served in that area. You are a friend. As been saying you are a confidant when those tough decisions came, there was someone you might call others but on the big, big tough ones gravitated to Senator Nelson on that. And so, I want to thank you for that, for years of, years of service. And in the grandiose state that we live in, I mean there's a ton of history here. It's a phenomenal history of difficult times, of a difficult land, with great people who rose up to challenge us in a very difficult environment. That's why people love stories of Texas. And, Senator Nelson, you have made your mark in a historic state at a historic time in historic ways. It will be talked about for generations. The legacies that you've established, the barriers that you've broken, you've set a standard, a standard that will be impossible as was mentioned by Senator Birdwell. Yeah, there may be a, another Senator from Senate District 12, but no one will achieve the achievements that you

have because you broke those barriers. You established yourself in a unique way. And as we look at people, many people would look at Senator Nelson and sit there and say, well she has it all. She has the Senate, she has this family, she has her faith, but what she's shown me is that Senator Nelson doesn't have it all, Senator Nelson gives it all. She gives all she has to this place and this body. She's taught me how to respect and love the process and the individuals involved in that process. As we can find out, she gives it all to her family. She gives it all to her friends. And so, we hear that statement a lot, Senator Nelson, we look at you and many, many would say, she has it all, and indeed you do. But that's only because you've given your all to every task, be it Senator, be it wife, be it mother, most importantly be it grandmother. And so, we thank you for your service. We thank you for your gift to this state. It's a different place because of you, a better place because of you. Thank you.

President: Senator Bettencourt.

Senator Bettencourt: Madam Chair, one last time, I want to thank you, first off, for putting up with freshmen that ask way too many questions on a Finance Committee. But that was the way to learn. Okay, but I want to go back even further and credit Mike. Mike, you married up. Congratulations. Okay? But, of course, he would, because he's a roboticist and automation guy like I am, and we were smart enough to not only find the loves of our lives, but find somebody with a logical and organized, conservative mind because that's what's there, always has been and always will be. Now, to the next generation of Nelsons, y'all need to keep improving that large picture of ever-improving population of Nelson grandchildren because I'm convinced after the, after the redistricting bill that we have, we're going to need all of them we can get up in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. And, Mike, before I forget, you know, I think it was Senator Nichols that mentioned that we hear a lot about the lake and the, and the updates, the only complaint we've heard is that your fish feeders are just, you, they're too, I guess say they're too generous to the fish and therefore cost too much. Okay, but that's the only complaint I've heard. I've only been, you know, known Jane for about six years, so if that's what you've got as your only complaint, you're scot-free. Your trips to Europe are somewhat legendary. I hear that some, everywhere between Italy and maybe Portugal, there's not been a, should I say, an entertainment venue not visited. Okay. And I'm sure we were checking out the tax rates on various local alcoholic beverages because it got to the point where I know that y'all made it to Portugal because I got a picture from Senator Huffman about the Bettencourt shopping center arcade and I assume bar, but I didn't know about the last one. And when, and when I hear, you know, all these because your leadership, it really is based upon the wisdom of many counselors, but also on knowing where to direct them. The tribute I have for you is that in the COVID year, we were on conference call after conference call. It was very grim because we started off with an economy that was in a nose dive. And it was so grim that even Whitmire was actually listening on the phone calls, okay, and paying attention. Okay, because we went to a point to where we were down 10 billion, and then we were down 20 billion and it looked really grim at that point. Well, this logical organized mind doesn't panic. She just lays it out and says here's where we're at and as that V-shaped curve, we started coming back up the other end, Senator West, because I know he was on all those calls, too. It was a real demonstration of leadership under fire that the public will never hear a lot about, but it

could have been a much different state of the, of Texas that and, but you didn't waiver. You didn't back up from what the issue was going to be, because we could've had to make some really serious decisions, but you told everybody on the team, the Finance Committee, what was happening, and we plowed through it. Now, tonight because as a, as a freshman who's experienced this party, I'm going to really encourage, okay, she knows where I'm going with this, I'm going to really encourage the freshmen here, okay, to bring your cell phone, okay, and use it in front of her of chairmanship', you know, right eyeballs, because she has a unique solution of where she will hide that, take it from you and hide it, okay. I, something to the effect of bait and switch, but I don't really want to say it publicly, okay, because she took a young freshman's phone and hid it, but I thought, and then she went back in and grabbed another phone out. I didn't realize later it was like left pocket, right pocket, but gentlemen you have to think higher than that. But she grabbed it out and threw it on the ground and trashed it and I'm going, wow, what an initiation to the Texas Senate, you know. I later realized that it was a dummy, you know, throw down, but I suspect the look on my face was priceless, okay. And I will remember that. So, I wish you Godspeed because the logical, organized, conservative mind is not going to stop. I don't know what you're going to tackle, but you're going to do a fantastic job as you've done here and with that, bon voyage to wherever you and Senator and Huffman go to the next arcade in Europe.

President: Senator Taylor.

Senator Taylor: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise with my colleagues today to support this resolution on behalf of our friend, Jane Nelson. Her tenure, as you know, has been filled with working to pass many monumental pieces of legislation. I think CPRIT already been mentioned, but, you know, making sure we had the funding to pass it, major education reforms in House Bill 3. And then coming back this next, this past session and fulfilling those funding things that we had set up, property tax cuts, continue on the road to reforming our public education system. She was there to make sure that that happened with strong commitment and I can tell you one thing I know about Jane Nelson from hearing the stories back through college and all those sorority days and all that, she had not changed. This Senate and her tenure here has not changed Jane Nelson. She's still a strong conservative but she still also a great social leader. She's a firm believer in work hard, play hard, and I'm with you on that, Jane. She is no doubt a great leader among leaders. On a personal level, she has been my friend. She's been my mentor and, yes, my confidant. She shared her experience and wisdom with me as well as many of others on this floor, as you know. But all of this she has done with her million dollar smile and a happy countenance. All the time and you know the job of Chair of Finance is not always a happy place, but she is so strong and that happy countenance shines through every day and we appreciate that. So, many times we need that. Royce, I'm going to, we need that. Right? That smile to get us through some of these tough times we had to deal with. Jane, you are a Senator's Senator. We said that before, but you are the epitome of a Senator's Senator. You make this body better by being a part of it. You make all of us better by being a part of it and sharing of yourself with us. We all join together in wishing you all the best in your future endeavors and wishing you great enjoyments, spending more time with your family and, yes, those precious grandkids. Jane, you're obviously loved by your

family, but you're also loved by this family, your Senate colleagues, and we will miss you greatly. Thank you for your sacrifice and your service on behalf of a great and grateful state, the State of Texas. Happy birthday, Jane Nelson.

President: Senator Menéndez, you're recognized.

Senator Menéndez: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Huffman, Senator Whitmire for bringing this resolution forward. So, I definitely have not known you on this Senate floor as long as everyone who has spoken, but from the first budget that I had a chance to work with you six years ago, you were always a mentor. You always, a leader and we didn't agree on many things and, but you were always direct. You were always honest and so I was thinking about the type of leader you are, because I think you are a public servant. A leader who leads by example, and so many wonderful things have been said about you and all true, but I found a quote that I want to read that I believe embodies the type of person that you are and the leadership that you bring. And it says, the challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; to be kind, but not weak; to be bold, but not a bully; to be thoughtful, but not lazy; to be humble, but not timid; to be proud, but not arrogant; to have humor, but without folly. Senator Nelson, you embody every single one of those things. You have your priorities oh so right and, you know, we probably, our voting records are probably diametrically opposed, but that doesn't matter, because at the end of the day, what's important is that we love this state, we want what's best for this state, and I know in your heart, you are a person who loves their family more than anything. Like just yesterday, we were having a conversation about the friend group that y'all have been getting together every year for 50 years after you had made a pact, and the children, and I love hearing about your daughter who believes in homeopathic and alternative, this, you and I need to talk. We got to talk. I think we have some similar, but so I understand and I know and I love your heart, and I think that Texas is a better place, I know Texas is a better place because of people like you who are willing to come here and do what's best, working with anybody on this floor. And so, we will miss you, and we will not be, we will be better for your service, but there will be a huge, huge hole because of your departure from this body. And so, I just want to say thank you, thank you for always being so honest and direct and even last couple of days as we've talked about the ARPA funding and the foster care system and the things that we want to do. And the neat thing about you is that you always defer to the Members of your committee. You're like, make sure you talk to a Member of the committee, make sure you talk to the committee. It's not about Jane Nelson. And I'll end with this, true leaders know it's not about them, it's about the people they're trying to serve. Thank you for everything you've done. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Members.

President: Thank you, Senator. Senator Buckingham, you're next.

Senator Buckingham: Thank you, Mr. President. Chairwoman Nelson, you were in my chair before I was a Senator as I was the public member on Sunset, and you taught me to be early, stay late, until 2 in the morning, don't ask too many questions, and never vote against your Chair. So, Senator Birdwell, I'm sorry, that never quite worked when I was on Sunset under you, but anyway, I just want you to know, we love you. Happy birthday. You're amazing. I fought every day in the Senate to be like you, so God bless you, and thank you for all you do.

President: Senator Alvarado.

Senator Alvarado: Thank you, Mr. President, and Dean Whitmire and Chair Huffman, thank you for offering the resolution. Jane, I have long admired you and respected you from across the rotunda as a member of the House, and when I got the call one day that you wanted me to carry one of your bills, I was excited, I was nervous. I said, really, Jane Nelson wants me to carry one of her bills? House members, you know what that's like, and it took great pride in the work because it was about, had to do with child abuse, and I know that was a passion of yours, and we got it done, and I want to thank you for being a mentor to me. I still feel like a newbie here, second session, but I know that I'm a better Senator because of you, and even when we have been on different sides of an issue, we have found common ground. The day after, the day of, when I got off the floor from standing here for 15 hours, you were back there and helping me to recuperate. And I appreciated that because, again, while we had different takes on the policy, there's a human side to a lot of what we do. And you always seem to point that out regardless who it is, male or female, Democrat, Republican, urban, rural, you always go the distance to find that connection, and sometimes I think we need a little more of that in today's climate. So, thank you for everything you've done. I don't know why you pick now to leave, especially after the Dean got his hearing aids and now he can, he can hear everything you're saying. And we know the big question is what are you going to do next, but the bigger question, I think the Lieutenant Governor alluded to this, who's going to keep the Dean in line, because only you can do that. So, you might have some advice for a few of us. Thank you.

President: Senator Kolkhorst.

Senator Kolkhorst: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for this great resolution. Jane just took a deep breath. I had a unique perspective because I was her counterpart in the Texas House, and I chaired public health. And the first session when I got it was a little bit of surprise, and so much of a surprise, I'd never laid a bill in public health and I had a large, a large learning curve. But she reached out and she called me, Senator Zaffirini. Now, that call was a friendship call, but I also learned that Jane was sizing me up a little bit and that's fair, because after that session, my family fondly began to refer to her as Queen Jane, because I learned that it was very difficult to maybe best a Senator. I mean, there's just, you know, they're two different bodies, and I mean she really schooled me on some bills, but, Senator Alvarado, it was a great learning experience. So, the next session she calls me and she basically doles up the bills and says I'm going to X, Y, and Z and you're going to carry X, Y, Z or A, B, C. And I was like, whew, boy, was there a negotiation there? I think there was, I don't know. And anyway, because one of them was a really hard scope of practice bill. And I really said to her, we did need to do something, but you know you have more experience and let's work through this. And she taught me so much through that. But when I came to this body, I do believe that the first Senator that called me after I filed for office was Jane Nelson. I'll never forget. I was riding back from Victoria, a trip I take really often, and she was so encouraging. It was an incredible conversation. Just outside of Victoria till well past Hallettsville, and I appreciated it a whole, a whole bunch. Mr. President, I think one of the greatest honors I've ever had came from you

and Jane when you named me to the Conference Committee on the General Appropriations Act as a freshman here. And, Senator Nelson, you and I have a few secrets, and one of them is that I always write you handwritten notes about how to, you know, what are the real glitches in the budget. And part of that was learned from, I watched you and how many notes that you take over and over again. Senator Gutierrez, when you were questioning Jane on, I believe it was HB 11, maybe a little too aggressively, and some of us in the Senate floor will get that House out of you, but it was so funny, I was on a text message string with my family, I said, I got to go. I said, one of the Senator's kind of beating up Senator Nelson, and one of family members replied, defend the queen. And I replied back and said, she doesn't need defending ever, because you were always so good at everything that you did and so prepared. But the one thing that I learned from you is true leadership. Senator Nelson always knew where she wanted the boat to go. She knew what marina we were going to end up in, but she didn't necessarily pick the boat slip that we were going to park the boat in. She gave us all that ownership. She let us have that investment along the way. With gentle guidance, with questions, with some of those questions were pretty tough, pretty tough. Why do you want to fund that? What's it going to do for Texas, Senator Menéndez? Is this important? And it was often not about your district or my district, it was about what was best for Texas. In all these years I've gotten to serve with you, which is now 21, but most intimately starting in 2009 as Chair of Public Health, there is no one in either body that has been a better mentor. Someone who has taught, not only me, but others more. Everyone on this floor is replaceable. Everyone. We've learned that through history. We have learned that through history, but, Jane, you're as close to irreplaceable as they come. Senator Alvarado, you're right, who's going to keep the Dean in place? We might not have all that long to have to do it because he's moving, potentially, on to greater things and being a great leader for Texas. But it is the leadership of senior Senators like Senator Nelson, who has set the stage for what, having served in the minority party and then in the majority party, having stood on this floor with Bob Bullock over your shoulder saying, Nelson, you're not going to vote against this budget, you're not going to do it, you're not do it, and having the courage to vote "no." You are as close to irreplaceable as it comes. Thank you so much. Mike, family, we're going to, I promise you, we have her cell phone and we're not going to let her go far. God bless you and happy, happy birthday, Jane Nelson.

President: Senator Hall, you're next. We have just a couple of more speakers, Senator Nelson, for you. This is like, what's that show, *This Is Your Life*, you know, in the Senate. Mike is old enough to remember. Right?

Senator Hall: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Chair, what has been said on this floor today is absolutely true. I agree with it, and I'm not going to try to outdo or match folks in talking about what a great leader you've been or what it's been. I'm just going to talk about a couple of incidents that occurred between you and I that I think epitomize who you really are. And one of them was my very first committee hearing, my very first vote. Many of you will remember wherever you were when you had that, but in walks Chair Nelson. I had no idea what she was going to be talking about, and she lays out a bill that was absolutely the opposite of what I thought I was coming here for, and I found myself facing taking my very first vote against the Chair of

Finance being a "no." And I said, God, what are You doing to me? And so, I did. She was most gracious about it. That was no big deal. The chewing out came from the Chair Fraser, because I didn't tell him ahead of time that I was going to vote "no," and I didn't say I didn't get the memo that I was supposed to do that. But it was the way it was handled and that I thought was wild. That's pretty good. And the other was the bill and was nearest and dearest to my heart, has been, still is. And I will still continue to work on it, because I came here knowing that we have a serious threat against our electrical grid system. And I found a compatriot in Senator Nelson in our views of prepping. We had many a conversations talking about being a real prepper. And she expressed a true understanding of the threat we have and what I was trying to solve with that and is one of the few people I could actually have a detailed discussion about it and understanding, and it shows her broad understanding of the things that we're faced with here because that's about as far from finance as you can in that. But I appreciate that. I appreciate the way you've handled all of what happened in Finance. I think I expressed that the very first session when we got around to the finance bill. I remember the look on your face when I stood up to speak, not knowing what I was going to have to say about it, but it was a time where we moved into really recognizing how to put together a conservative bill, and you did that, and I think you've worked really hard in doing that every session we've been here. It's been an honor to work with you and what everybody said is, we are going to miss you. It will be a hole to fill. I've got to find somebody else to talking about prepping and grid protection with now that you're gone. So, God bless you.

President: Senator Perry.

Senator Perry: Thank you, Mr. President. I wasn't going to say anything, but it seems like every one of us owe you kind of your contribution to who we are as a Senator. And I'll tell you words that come to mind, consistency, you walk the talk, you have the conviction, but in this day and time when it's hard to determine who's lying and who's not, you kind of get to where you can spot a fraud pretty quick. It's something I think that's inherent as you become more and more involved in the political circle. You're the real deal. Nobody has to question your passion, nobody has to question your conviction and your priorities, as already been said. I'll give you a compliment, it won't mean much to you, but just trust me, coming from me it means everything. In our lives there's a lot of people that you come across that you're good to know and glad to know, but there's a few, usually less than five that you can count on one hand, that kind of kept you on the straight and narrow. I had an individual that kind of, sort of raised me from about 15, 16, 17 on. I attribute them to keeping me from having an orange county jumpsuit with lettering across the back with an ID on the front. But what that person was able to do is not tell me what to do, but put me on a path that Senator Kolkhorst said, you know where the marina is, you just don't quite know where the slip's going to be. You know, he would let you make those decisions, partly by telling you what consequences to look out there, what may happen. But I think it's the teacher in you. Great teachers don't tell kids what to learn or how to learn in the sense that you're the only option, you let kids explore and you let kids figure it out. So, I think from my perspective, what you have been able to do and what you so masterfully did is you let that ownership take place, but you also had the confidence and the trust in the fellow humanity that we all share, whether we can

agree or disagree on certain level of the details, that you got to trust people at some point to do the right thing. And that takes bold leadership to remove themselves from something that they're ultimately responsible for the byproduct. Right? You know at the end of the day, it's Jane Nelson's budget, or it's Jane Nelson's legislation. But you also had the wisdom and the discernment to know you can't get there on your own. So, it's your trust in us, it's trusting people, and it's your confidence and your courage and your convictions that come with that. And then, to have a practical approach to allowing us to find our own way through it, and the product is significantly different and better. As was said, you know, council of the many minds. So, I appreciate that, but from my perspective, if I could tell you that person and what they had an influence on me, you are no different than, I think, that everybody that's had the privilege to serve with you, because you figured out how to get the best of everybody. And I'm glad that not everybody thinks like Charles Perry, I think it would be a boring world, number one, but we'd be in a world of hurt on a lot of levels. But I'm also think every Senator on the floor glad that not everybody votes like or thinks like themselves. So, you got it, you're going to be missed. You're not irreplaceable for sure, but your legacy, rest assured and sleep confident. When you get out of here, you're going to go, can they manage without me? Rest assured, there is enough of Jane Nelson in everybody that you've had contact with, outside, lobby, or whoever they may be, that as long as you still have your cell phone around, you won't be that far away. But there is a legacy of intangible that's going to be here for a long time. And we thank you for that. And I personally thank you because you never told me no directly. You would say, but did you know or did you think about, and you know what, 99 percent of the time I'd back away and say you were right. And that's what we need, is those honest dialogues. Thank you for being who you are.

President: Thank you, Senator. Senator Paxton.

Senator Paxton: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Dean, and Dean-in-waiting, for bringing this wonderful resolution. And, Madam Chair, thank you. I'm a little bit like a, something that almost everyone has said over and over, there's been something that I've gone, that's true for me. It's true for me. It's true for me. And, you know, I wish that I had been smart enough and powerful enough to hold my age at 40 for all of eternity like you. And I'm glad we're all going to get to enjoy celebrating that with you. But you know one of things, there are a lot of words that have been repeated over and over again, and I've had the opportunity to see them in this Chamber, inside this rail, and outside this rail, as a colleague. But I also had the opportunity to watch you from a distance, but a near distance, sort of like Senator Hancock mentioned, as the Senator of the neighboring county where I'm up in Collin County for a long time. There was a resolution from you hanging in the foyer of a school I taught at, just recognizing their great work. I walked past that every day, never imagining I would get an opportunity to work with you like this. But I heard the word respect a lot, I heard the word courage, and I heard the word, or versions of the word mentor and teacher and guide. And I love what Senator Perry was just saying about, you know, what really great teachers do, they don't tell you what to think, and I, when he said that, I started thinking about my experiences as a teacher. I think that's really true because I've always thought what a really good teacher does is they teach you how to think, not so much what to think but how to think. And I think everyone

in this Chamber has expressed their appreciation for that, that you've helped us in that way. And as much as it's about respect and courage, I think what that really boils down to is the leadership of love. And we talk about love in a lot of different ways, people define it in all kinds of ways, but the best definition I ever saw that really rang true for me is that love seeks the good of the other. Whoever the other is, it's like what is really good for them. And you know, it's a beautiful definition because you don't have to agree with that person, you don't even have to like that person, that's why I think God says, I mean that's how God loves us. He doesn't agree with everything we choose, He doesn't agree, I wonder how He likes us sometimes. He loves us and He's always looking out for what's best for us. And that's the leadership, that's the courage, that's the mentorship that I take from you. Thank you for leading with love, showing me what it looks like to put other things to the side and really think about what's the best. What really accomplishes the best? And I look forward to being a good neighbor in the future. Thanks for welcoming me into the grandparents club, you've been a great mentor with that, too. And with much love for you, I say, happy birthday.

President: Senator Hughes, you are next, and then Senator Springer.

Senator Hughes: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, way back in 2007, the HHSC had implemented a new system for eligibility for folks needing help, and a lot of problems with it, so there was a joint committee set up to give some oversight, a joint committee on HHSC eligibility system. As a young backbench member of the House, for some reason Speaker Craddick made me the, made me the House Chair and the Senate Chair was, of course, Chair Jane Nelson. Senator Zaffirini served on that committee. This committee met on the floor of the Texas Senate, that's still a pretty big deal to me. Committee met on the floor of the Texas Senate, joint House Senate committee, and I was the joint presiding officer with Senator Nelson, whom I'd known the reputation before I got here and as a House member and looked up to. And I was a little bit afraid of her, she was always nice but it's Senator Nelson. So, got over here for these hearings, and those of you who know her won't be surprised, I was surprised at the time, we're the joint presiding officers, she let me preside over those hearings. She called me Mr. Chairman from the floor of the Senate. I will never forget that. And it would have been so easy for her just to take that chair and I would have not, I assume she would take it, the work would have been done more efficiently, quicker, better, if she had. But she didn't. She wanted me to learn, so kind, so gentle, when I needed to be corrected from time to time, Senator Kolkhorst, she was so gentle and easy, what about this, have you thought about doing it this way? Well, I'll never forget it, I still have pictures from those hearings. That was a, was a big deal to me. I'll never forget that. And we got some good work done, policy-wise, was a few of the Members. And that was the beginning, little did I know I would get to come here one day and you would continue to not tell me what to do, but even when I asked, just to gently, have you thought about this, you might try it this way. Wow, thank you. Again, so many times you could just fix the problem yourself, but you help us. You come alongside, you say here's what I've learned in doing this, and you don't have to be nice about it but you always are. And so, you have that way of sharing with us your experience. And I shouldn't refer to these things in the past tense because as everyone has said, you know we're going to keep calling, keep texting, keep asking you. We'll continue to do that, but I just can't tell you what a joy it's been for me to get to be here

and to get closer and closer to you and learn more and see how you do things and why you do things. I've learned so much and I have so much to learn, so I'm going to keep on asking for your help and your direction. We just love you, we thank the Lord for you, and look forward to what's next. And glad you're not going to be far. Thank you. Bless you.

President: Thank you, Senator. Senator Springer.

Senator Springer: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you Dean and Senator Huffman for bringing this resolution. And, Senator Nelson, it is so tough to say all the things that you've meant to me, and hearing everybody, knowing that you have meant that much to everybody in this place and making us all better. I remember, although it's been only a few months here in the Senate, you know, we spent eight years being neighbors in Denton County, Cooke County, and working on a lot of stuff. And you helped me when I was a House member. So, we've had a long relationship. I knew that you and I shared, when I was in the House, we were the only two undergraduates of UNT. And so, we had our Mean Green pride going and continue to work and help them. There is an opening up there at the Chancellor's spot, by the way, but, no. And we don't know where the Lord's going to take you, but that would be a beautiful place for an alumnus to know. But the shoes that everybody's talked about filling in here, what they don't know is, not only do we have to fill them on this Chamber, but I have to try to fill them back in the new Senate District 30, in Frisco, in Lewisville, in Corinth. And to tell you how hard that's going to be to fill, my mother said, wait, Jane Nelson's not going to be my Senator, you are? I hope you're as good as she is. It's my own mother making me live up to the standard of Jane Nelson. And so, you know, so it's tough. But the other thing I want to say thank you to, and I've given this speech in town halls all across my district, especially when I go to schools. I talk to assemblies and I try to talk to the ladies and the girls in the room. And I tell them that they have every right to be at the same spot that we are. And you have done that. TFRW and what you've done for women in the State of Texas, to show them that they can do it, don't believe that only a man can. And I want to thank you for that. For a father of a daughter, I appreciate it, you know, you setting that standard. And I'm blessed to know that your retreat oasis is just down the street from me with Mike. And, Mike, she keeps showing me and taunting me with all these pictures of this fish. And so, you know, I said, hey, I'm going to bring my kayak over, and we're going to hop in there and come fishing one day. So, I look forward to visiting y'all there on the ranch and that. And so, and lastly, I want to say, and I've heard a few people mention, you know, that smile, smile that lights up a room. I don't think of it that way, though, I think it's the smile that lights up Texas. So, God bless you on whatever venture you go on to next. It has been an honor to spend just a little bit of time with you on this Senate floor, and I look forward to spending many more months and years together up in Cooke County, North Texas, and wherever God takes us. Thank you.

President: Thank you, Senator. Senator Blanco.

Senator Blanco: Madam Chair, thank you so much for your service. I mean, you've got such a distinguished career and you've accomplished so much. But as a freshman, I want to take the opportunity to go over some ARPA fund projects in my district. I'm kidding. You know, it's been a long 10 months in the Texas Senate since I've been

here, and it's been, it feels like I've been here many, many years. But, you know, in the spirit of being a teacher, you know, when you come into this Chamber and you hear about the people who have served here and the people that you're about to serve with, these are titans, these are very powerful people. And like in kindergarten, I know many of you can't remember kindergarten, but you get these butterflies in your stomach when you come into this Chamber. But I'll always remember in kindergarten, Sister Natalie, my teacher who when I was very nervous and I was crying because I was very nervous to go into school, but she opened her arms and gave me a big old hug and I felt so comfortable. And that's exactly what you did in the Texas Senate. And you can't replace that. So, I want to thank you for doing that for me, for the countless freshmen because many people here have been freshmen during your tenure. As a former staffer, you got to respect who you work for. You learn so much from your boss. And I'm sure people are watching on video, former staffers, former committee staffers, the folks that have worked in your office, many may be even in the gallery today, that you have mentored, that you have shown them what true public service is. And many of them have gone on to other things and to continue to serve to make our state great, and other careers to improve the lives of others. I know I learned that from my former bosses, as I am very sure that they have learned that from you as well. So, thank you for your contribution. I can't add more to what, everything that has been said. But your kindness, most of our conversations have been over lunch, maybe a cocktail, but it's been about your family, it's been about life, it's been about some business. But I'll always remember that your humanity and how we get to know you as a person is so important. I think that's so important for this body, and I've learned that from you. So, thank you very much, and we'll see you later on tonight at the party.

President: Members, I know we have some scheduled things for a number of Members at four, we do have a couple of bills and another resolution from Robert Nichols. I think we can, hopefully, get it done before then. I'll be very brief, keeping that in mind. Senator Perry, so many wonderful things said. Your comment that she will leave a little bit of Jane Nelson in all of us, I think is really, really a compliment to you and gives us a little bit more comfort. I think it also means that we should rotate who sits next to John Whitmire in the next session. It's something brand new, so you can have a different deskmate there every day, John. Very quickly, I remember coming in as a freshman almost 15 years ago, working on 15 or 16, on Health and Human Services. And we went through the entire session and you didn't, you remember that? You did not set any of my bills to be heard and I was, you know, was faithful, I was there every hour of every day, some of those hearings were long. And I went up to you and I said, Madam Chair, I've been here the entire session, you have not set any of my bills. And you said, did you ask? To which I said, I had to ask? I didn't know. And that's a true freshman, I had to ask. I just thought it would happen. And then I remember one day on the floor coming by, and you had a bill on local dealing with billboards and beautifying, and I said, Madam Chair, I'm going to have to knock that bill off local, and you said, if you knock that off local, I'll knock five of yours off for every one of mine. And I remember thinking, I don't have five bills on local. I only passed six that first year, I didn't have many bills. What some of you may not know is that when I was thinking about running for Lieutenant Governor, I went to Jane in the

lounge or in her office, can't remember where it was. And I suggested that she should think about running and be the first woman Lieutenant Governor, and I would be glad to support her because I really enjoyed being Education Chair. And you said, I have a big family and that would take a lot of time away from family. And I respected that. And now that I have seven grandkids, seventh coming in a few weeks, I surely understand that as well. I know for the rest of you, you wish she would have accepted my offer, I totally understand that, and become the Lieutenant Governor. But as time moved on and our Finance Chair left, at that time Tommy Williams announced his retirement before session was over, I called David Dewhurst after the election was, it looked good. And I said, if I'm able to win, I'm going to appoint Jane as the first woman Finance Chair, so would you help by appointing her as interim Chair so she could get started on the work? And he was kind enough to do that and that's really how that began. You've been such a great partner. For those of you on Finance, you know, those of you on Finance who don't know, but the job of the Chair begins in the summer before session. She's here five days a week, week after week, burning the midnight oil. It's a massive project, and I have to have someone I can trust in that position. So, I'm going to lose my wingwoman here for the last eight years. I'll just finish with this, and this is really for all of you, lift you up a little bit because there are a lot of critics in the world, both parties, no matter what you do, what you say, when you do it, when you say it, Teddy Roosevelt called this citizenship in a republic. It's become known as The Man in the Arena, which I've changed for you, of course. He gave the speech on April 23rd, I believe, 1910, in Paris, one of your favorite cities. And he said, it's not the critic who counts; not the critic who points out how the strong stumble or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the woman in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, great devotions; who spends herself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if she fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that her place shall never be with those who are cold and timid, cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat. You have dared greatly. Members, please rise in honor of this resolution for our friend who we love, Senator, Chairwoman Jane Nelson. Senator Nelson, you have the mic if you wish.

Senator Nelson: Oh my gosh. Thank you. I'm getting, thank you. You know, I don't think it took me this long to pass the budget. I am so honored. Senator Huffman, Dean Whitmire, thank you for bringing the resolution forward, and thank you all for your words. There is a Bible verse that says, to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven, and it is time for me to move on and do something else. And you all each will face this decision. And I'm very much at peace, it was my decision. I have loved every minute of being in the Texas Senate. And I would like to, Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, address the resolution because there were a couple of things that were left out. You know, people ask me what I'm going to do, Senator West, when I finish being a Senator. Well, and some have suggested that I write a book. And it really would be kind of fun, nobody would believe a lot of the things that would go into the book. And, of course, Dean Whitmire, you would get a whole

chapter, an entire chapter. But there are some things that I would put in a book, and one little thing that I tell often, especially, when somebody comes and asks me about running for office or new Members that come in, some of you all I counseled. And it actually wasn't my idea, a person who was an elected official when I was running for office who helped me a lot said, get out, that's back when we used note cards. Remember? And he said, get out a three by five note card and write down why you want to be a Senator and put it in your desk drawer. And there'll be times during the campaign that you get frustrated or you forget why you really originally wanted to do this. There'll be times when you get elected that you're going to say, why am I doing this? Always remember why you originally wanted to run for office. And that was great advice, and I still have that card by the way, 30 years later. Actually, I was running for the State Board of Education, that was in '87. There's something else that will be in my book, only I don't know how I would describe it, and we've talked about it, the uniqueness of this body, of the Texas Senate. You can't describe it to other people. You know, we are, the House can't even understand it. You all who have been House members, when you come over here, you get it. There are just 31 of us, and we each represent almost a million people. Right, Senator Huffman? Yeah, close to a million people. And we are down here together, we've been sent here to represent those people. And your district and your district and your district, the districts are all very different, their needs are different, but we're all Texans. And this body still remembers that we are all Texans. And, you know, we're so small, there are just 31 of us. And we actually have a leader who actually was a Texas Senator, he gets it. Senator Patrick, we can go back into that, sorry, Governor Patrick, we can go back in that room, 31 of us, and talk. We've prayed together, people don't know that. Voluntarily. We can go back there and truly share our feelings. Senator Menéndez, you, I disagree with you, you said that we may not agree on things, we agree on most things, absolutely. We may not agree on how to get there, but I know you, and your values and my values are like this. I hear you talking about that grandbaby, and I know how important family and faith and education and CPS and all those things are to you. We absolutely agree. And we are, there are so few of us that when something happens, Senator Taylor, all of the Senators who represented that area that the hurricane hit, I hurt for you. You know, we gathered up people in boats and water and sent them down because we're all Texans. You hurt, I hurt. Senator Blanco, when that shooting took place in El Paso and I went down, remember, we went down, my heart bled for those people that you represent who testified before us, because those people are Texans. When you hurt, I hurt. And it's something that binds us together, and it's very unique. And it, I'm so proud of that. You know, another thing, another part of my book, Senator Whitmire, people don't know this, it's true, I actually have very strong faith. And when it just happened that I ran for the Texas Senate, first of all, Senator Zaffirini, do you remember what it was like back then? I mean, well, first of all, I was in the minority party, mostly men, mostly men who were attorneys. I was a mom and a teacher and totally out of my element. But God has plans, and let me tell you I was listening to your beautiful words today, and the qualities that you talked about I'm very proud of, but those are my mom talents. Right, Christina? And my teacher talents, and maybe that was God's plan, we didn't need any more, you know, lawyers or men. We needed some moms in this place. One thing that I value about this body is

that we each have different traits and talents that we bring, and you stir it all up and it makes beautiful legislation if you will just let it. And maybe that was the plan, you know, I prayed over whether to be a Senator or not. And I said, okay, God, you want me to do this, you got to give me two things, a patient husband, and Mike Nelson, we've been together 50 years now, has never complained about this, never. He has sewn sequins on dance costumes and been supermom. Am I right? Been so supportive, he invented the lunchables, the kids talk about that. So supportive. But you know what, this is a great model, too, because when women call me and say, I'm thinking about running for office, what do you think? Beverly's going, yeah. I say, what's your husband say about this? If he's supportive you can do it. If he's not, you might want to rethink that. And Mike has been supportive every step of the way and that's how I've been able to do what I do. The other thing I prayed for was a great staff. Now, I've got a note here that says, surprise, your former and current staff are in the gallery. And I'm looking up there and, oh my gosh, are we going to have fun tonight. Throughout, I got staff over here, throughout my time in the Texas Senate, God has blessed me with the most brilliant, talented, hardworking, dedicated people anybody has ever had. And I could never do, you all know this, yet our staff is there and helps us and provides so much of the foundation for what we do. And I am so grateful, and I'm so proud of where so many of my staff have moved on and ended up. But it is not just my staff, it's your staff, all these people who sit around the rails and who are up here five hours every night after we leave. And it's the, Patsy and Karina, it's, and I shouldn't start naming people. But without all the people we're looking at and all the people that are, you know, Mary, and just, we have so many people in this building that support us and allow us to be the successful Senate that we are. And we could never do it without this wonderful staff that we have, that we all have. I'm so grateful for having had the opportunity. I'm not gone yet, by the way, I still have an important bill to pass before I go. I'm so grateful for having had the opportunity to serve. I'm grateful for having the opportunity to show you that we can work together and get things, this done. I am, Mike will tell you, perseverant when I put my mind to something. But I also hope, I like what you said because it is important to me to listen to everybody. And while I might not agree with you, believe it or not, I don't always agree with Mike, we can talk about this. And for those of you who are new, don't lose that, always listen and work together. I'm not asking you to always vote the same, but at least listen to each other. Go back in that room together and talk about your families, talk about what's important, really important in your life because you're all the same. I know each of you and the things that are important to each of you are common to all of you. And that's what makes this Texas Senate the most special body in this country, I believe on the planet. And if we ever lose that, we've lost an example for, I want my grandkids to see this. I want them to see that we can still hold common values, differ in how we're going to get there, but work together to make this world better for those grandkids. And if I've done that, I've done my job. So, Governor Patrick, thank you, thank you for giving me the opportunity that you've given me, to show that we can work together and make things happen. And thank you all, this is the greatest, Dean Whitmire, gift you could ever have given me. It's just, the words that I've heard, but it's not just something you've given to me, but these people sitting out here and the young people that may be listening, you can do

anything. I'm nothing special, I'm a mom and a teacher who's pretty stubborn, pretty determined, pretty hardworking, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to do this. Anybody can do this. I got to hear it while I was alive. Thank you, all. Thank you, Mr. President. Party on, dude!

GUEST PRESENTED

Senator Buckingham was recognized and introduced to the Senate Jean-Michel Dorbe from the French Republic.

The Senate welcomed its guest.

SENATE BILL 10 ON SECOND READING

Senator Hughes moved to suspend the regular order of business and Senate Rule 7.12(a) to take up for consideration **SB 10** at this time on its second reading:

SB 10, Relating to increasing the criminal penalty for committing certain offenses relating to elections.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 18, Nays 13.

Yeas: Bettencourt, Birdwell, Buckingham, Campbell, Creighton, Hall, Hancock, Huffman, Hughes, Kolkhorst, Nelson, Nichols, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Seliger, Springer, Taylor.

Nays: Alvarado, Blanco, Eckhardt, Gutierrez, Hinojosa, Johnson, Lucio, Menéndez, Miles, Powell, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini.

The bill was read second time and was passed to engrossment by the following vote: Yeas 18, Nays 13. (Same as previous roll call)

SENATE BILL 47 ON SECOND READING

Senator Bettencourt moved to suspend the regular order of business and Senate Rule 7.12(a) to take up for consideration **SB 47** at this time on its second reading:

SB 47, Relating to processes to address election irregularities; providing a civil penalty.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 18, Nays 13.

Yeas: Bettencourt, Birdwell, Buckingham, Campbell, Creighton, Hall, Hancock, Huffman, Hughes, Kolkhorst, Lucio, Nelson, Nichols, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Springer, Taylor.

Nays: Alvarado, Blanco, Eckhardt, Gutierrez, Hinojosa, Johnson, Menéndez, Miles, Powell, Seliger, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini.

The bill was read second time.

Senator Bettencourt offered the following amendment to the bill:

Floor Amendment No. 1

Amend **SB 47** (senate committee printing) in SECTION 1 of the bill, in added Section 281.001(f), Election Code (page 3, line 14), between "include" and the underlined colon, by inserting "a manual review of the following".

The amendment to **SB 47** was read and was adopted by a viva voce vote.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the adoption of Floor Amendment No. 1.

Senator Johnson offered the following amendment to the bill:

Floor Amendment No. 2

Amend **SB 47** (senate committee printing) as follows:

(1) In SECTION 1 of the bill, adding Chapter 280, Election Code, at the end of Section 280.001 (page 1, between lines 58 and 59), insert the following:

(g) A person who makes a request under Subsection (e) shall, at the time the person makes the request, post a bond that is payable to the county if an audit resulting from the request does not result in a finding of a violation and is in an amount sufficient to compensate the county for costs incurred in the course of responding to a request made under Subsections (a) and (c).

(2) In SECTION 1 of the bill, adding Chapter 281, Election Code, at the end of Section 281.001(b) (page 2, following line 69), insert the following:

(b-1) A state or county chair who makes a request under this section shall, at the time the chair makes the request, post a bond that is payable to the county if the resulting audit does not result in a notice with an indication under Subsection (o)(3) and is in an amount sufficient to compensate the county for the cost of the audit.

The amendment to **SB 47** was read and failed of adoption by the following vote: Yeas 13, Nays 18.

Yeas: Alvarado, Blanco, Eckhardt, Gutierrez, Hinojosa, Johnson, Lucio, Menéndez, Miles, Powell, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini.

Nays: Bettencourt, Birdwell, Buckingham, Campbell, Creighton, Hall, Hancock, Huffman, Hughes, Kolkhorst, Nelson, Nichols, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Seliger, Springer, Taylor.

Senator Hall offered the following amendment to the bill:

Floor Amendment No. 3

Amend **SB 47** (senate committee printing) as follows:

(1) In the recital to SECTION 1 of the bill (page 1, line 23), strike "280 and 281" and substitute "280, 281, and 282".

(2) In SECTION 1 of the bill, immediately following added Chapter 281, Election Code (page 4, between lines 54 and 55), insert the following:

CHAPTER 282. JOINT COMMITTEE FOR OVERSIGHT

Sec. 282.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "joint committee" means the joint committee established under this chapter.

Sec. 282.002. JOINT COMMITTEE FOR OVERSIGHT ESTABLISHED. (a) A joint committee is established to monitor compliance with Chapter 280 and, until its expiration, Chapter 281.

(b) The joint committee is composed of 10 members, appointed as follows:

(1) five senators appointed by the lieutenant governor; and

(2) five representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(c) The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives shall designate one member appointed under Subsection (b)(1) and one member appointed under Subsection (b)(2) to serve as co-chairs of the joint committee.

(d) A quorum of the joint committee is established if at least five members are present.

Sec. 282.003. JOINT COMMITTEE DUTIES. (a) The secretary of state shall, on a quarterly basis and on request of the joint committee, report to the joint committee any actions taken by the secretary under Chapter 280.

(b) The election review advisory committee established under Chapter 281 shall, on a quarterly basis and on request of the joint committee, report to the joint committee any actions taken by the election review advisory committee. This subsection expires on September 1, 2024.

(c) The joint committee shall, as necessary, produce a report that details:

(1) all actions reported to the committee;

(2) any findings made by the committee; and

(3) recommendations for legislative action.

The amendment to **SB 47** was read and was adopted by a viva voce vote.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the adoption of Floor Amendment No. 3.

SB 47 as amended was passed to engrossment by the following vote: Yeas 17, Nays 14.

Yeas: Bettencourt, Birdwell, Buckingham, Campbell, Creighton, Hall, Hancock, Huffman, Hughes, Kolkhorst, Nelson, Nichols, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Springer, Taylor.

Nays: Alvarado, Blanco, Eckhardt, Gutierrez, Hinojosa, Johnson, Lucio, Menéndez, Miles, Powell, Seliger, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 10

On motion of Senator Hughes, Senators Buckingham, Creighton, Hall, Huffman, and Schwertner will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 10**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 29

On motion of Senator Perry, Senator Hall will be shown as Co-author of **SB 29**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 47

On motion of Senator Bettencourt, Senators Creighton, Hall, Huffman, Hughes, Perry, Schwertner, and Springer will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 47**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1

On motion of Senator Hall, Senators Blanco and Paxton will be shown as Co-authors of **SCR 1**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3

On motion of Senator Nichols, Senators Bettencourt, Hall, Hinojosa, Huffman, and Schwertner will be shown as Co-authors of **SCR 3**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

On motion of Senator Huffman, Senator Hughes will be shown as Co-author of **SJR 1**.

RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

The following resolutions were adopted by the Senate:

Memorial Resolutions

SR 51 by Buckingham and Hughes, In memory of Mary Stroube Adams.

SR 52 by Buckingham, In memory of Myrtle Cecil "Myrcel" Woodcock Britton.

SR 54 by Springer, In memory of Charles Allen Hicks.

SR 55 by Schwertner, In memory of Maria S. Ledesma.

Congratulatory Resolution

SR 50 by Hughes, Recognizing the East Texas Council of Governments on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, the Senate at 4:45 p.m. adjourned, in memory of Lilia Solis Flores, until 4:46 p.m. today.

APPENDIX

BILLS ENGROSSED

October 5, 2021

SB 10, SB 47

RESOLUTIONS ENROLLED

October 5, 2021

SR 39, SR 50, SR 51, SR 52, SR 53, SR 54, SR 55

In Memory
of
Lilia Solis Flores
Senate Resolution 53

WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the passing of Lilia Solis Flores of Laredo on September 25, 2021, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of Jesus G. Solis and Cristina P. Solis, the former Lilia Solis was born in Alice; she grew up in Alice, Corpus Christi, and Hebbronville, and she had seven siblings, Baldomero, Hector, Irma, Estella, Julia, Lily, and Emma; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Hebbronville High School, she married her sweetheart, Margarito C. "Marty" Flores, and relocated to San Antonio, where he was stationed with the U.S. Air Force; the couple became the parents of 10 children, Robert, Michael, Margaret, Deborah, Linda, Peter, Patricia, Julia, Joan, and James; while raising her sons and daughters, Mrs. Flores also supported her husband in his military career, which took them to Japan and Spain, as well as California, North Dakota, and Laredo; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Flores eventually welcomed into her treasured family 13 grandchildren, Jennifer, Michael, Victor, Lilia, Javier, Christina, Victoria, Katherine, Erica, Juliana, Lisa, Joan, and Robert, as well as 13 great-grandchildren; she and her husband shared a fulfilling marriage until his passing; and

WHEREAS, Thoughtful and caring, Mrs. Flores always placed the needs of others above her own; she loved family gatherings and decorating for the holidays, and she also enjoyed reading novels, antiques, shopping at flea markets, and going out to eat; and

WHEREAS, Although Lilia Flores will be deeply missed, the passage of time will never diminish the warmth and kindness that she brought into the lives of all who knew her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Lilia Solis Flores and extend sincere condolences to her loved ones; and, be it further

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

ZAFFIRINI

