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House Engrossed

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2004

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2042

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE EDWYNNE C. "POLLY" ROSENBAUM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 An Arizona treasure and icon, the Honorable Edwynne C. "Polly"
2 Rosenbaum, passed away December 28, 2003 at the age of one hundred four.

3 Born in Ollie, Iowa on September 4, 1899, Polly Rosenbaum moved to
4 Arizona in 1929. She had earned her bachelor's degree in history and
5 political science from the University of Colorado, and found work in Arizona
6 as a high school teacher in the Hayden mining camp. In 1929 she accepted
7 work as an unpaid secretary for the state legislature where she met William
8 "Rosey" Rosenbaum, a state representative and later Speaker of the House,
9 whom she married in 1939. Following his unexpected death in 1949,
10 Mrs. Rosenbaum was appointed to his seat in the Arizona House of
11 Representatives.

12 Thus began Mrs. Rosenbaum's remarkable service in the legislature,
13 where she capably and energetically represented her constituents in Globe and
14 district 4 for an unprecedented forty-five years. During her tenure she
15 championed the many causes dear to her heart, including the improvement of
16 education, museum and library services throughout the state and the
17 preservation of Arizona's rich heritage and the place of women in our state's
18 history. She served as chairman of the House Administrations Committee for
19 sixteen years, fighting against spending abuse in the House budget, and she
20 later served as chairman of the House Education Committee. Throughout nearly
21 seven decades of exceptional service to the legislature, she shared a unique
22 historical perspective and institutional memory that brought a sense of
23 stability and continuity to the House. She served twelve governors and
24 fifteen House speakers, and in 1982 her colleagues passed a legislative
25 resolution honoring her with the title "First Lady of the Arizona
26 Legislature." Between 1973 and 1995, she served as the Speaker Pro Tem on
27 the legislature's opening day. Mrs. Rosenbaum continued to win reelection to
28 her legislative seat until she was unseated in 1994's Republican electoral
29 landslide.

30 With her extensive knowledge of Arizona's past and as unofficial
31 protector of our state's heritage, Mrs. Rosenbaum was at the forefront of
32 projects to preserve Arizona's history. She served as an adviser in the
33 restoration of the old Capitol Museum, sharing her unique perspective as one
34 of the few remaining legislators at that time who had actually worked in the
35 old House chambers. She was influential in protecting Arizona's mining
36 heritage and led the fight to acquire a historic building as the permanent
37 site for the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum. Polly Rosenbaum also was
38 instrumental in the establishment of the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame in
39 1981, serving on both the steering and selection committees. Although she
40 was older than the adopted state she loved so much, Polly Rosenbaum remained
41 active and spry in her later years and continued to bring her legendary
42 energy and enthusiasm to countless worthwhile endeavors.

43 Despite the demands of her career, Mrs. Rosenbaum gave freely of her
44 time, energy and efforts to various worthwhile civic and professional
45 organizations, including the Globe Democratic Women's Club, Globe Business

1 and Professional Women, the Education Commission of the States, the
2 Globe-Miami Zonta Club, the State Board of Library and Archives, the National
3 Order of Women Legislators, Alpha Phi Alumnae Association and Freedom's
4 Foundation. She served in such leadership capacities as a member of the
5 Arizona Academy Board of Directors, the Natural Resources Committee of the
6 Council of State Governments, Western Division, the Girls' Ranch Board of
7 Directors and the Groundwater Study Committee. In recognition of her
8 devotion to furthering the interests of her beloved Arizona, Mrs. Rosenbaum
9 received countless awards and honors, including the First Legislative Award
10 of Arizona Library Friends in 1983, the 1960 Globe Business and Professional
11 Woman of the Year, the 1974 Gila County Woman of the Year, honorary
12 membership in Delta Kappa Gamma and the Heritage Foundation of Arizona and
13 honorary degrees from Northern Arizona University, the University of Phoenix
14 and Arizona State University.

15 In her various roles as teacher, historian, legislator and friend,
16 Polly Rosenbaum approached life with passion, understanding, kindness and
17 intelligence. Her integrity, enthusiasm and dedication brought her the
18 respect and admiration of all who knew her. Polly Rosenbaum will be greatly
19 missed by her many friends and associates as well as the citizens of Globe
20 and the State of Arizona.

21 Therefore

22 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the
23 Senate concurring:

24 That the Members of the Legislature express sincere regret at the
25 passing of their colleague, Polly Rosenbaum, and extend their sympathies and
26 condolences to her sister, Lois, nieces, Judy, Kay and Jill, nephews, James
27 and Jeffrey, and other surviving family members.