

By: Keffer of Eastland

H.R. No. 1074

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many residents of Eastland are joining together on
2 National Flag Day, June 14, 2003, to honor the late Marene
3 Johnson-Johnson and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of her
4 remarkable stamp mural, which was dedicated on National Flag Day in
5 1963; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Johnson-Johnson was born in 1899 in Stonewall
7 County and graduated from Aspermont High School and Stamford
8 College; devoted to her community, she participated actively in
9 civic affairs until her passing in 1978; her many endeavors
10 included service on the Texas state boards of Easter Seals and the
11 United Fund and on the national council of the USO; and

12 WHEREAS, This public-spirited Texan also served as the first
13 female postmaster of Eastland, a position she held from 1955 to
14 1968; during her tenure, she created what has become a community
15 icon, a striking 60-square-foot mural in the city's post office
16 that is composed almost entirely of canceled postage stamps; and

17 WHEREAS, Seven years in the making, the mural contains 11,217
18 foreign and American stamps, including most of the U.S. stamps
19 issued up to 1963; among the images depicted are the five-cent
20 Benjamin Franklin, two-cent Abraham Lincoln, and one-cent Lady
21 Liberty stamps, as well as a map of the State of Texas and a variety
22 of motifs relating to American education, military forces, and
23 advances in communication and industry; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition, six United States presidents, numerous

1 state political leaders, and many United Nations' ambassadors
2 signed stamps for the project, making the mural not only a beautiful
3 piece of art but also a historical treasure; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Marene Johnson-Johnson
5 epitomized the virtues of love of country and service to one's
6 community, and it is most fitting that the people of Eastland pay
7 tribute to both her and her mural--a treasured piece of their city's
8 heritage--on this special day; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the life of Marene Johnson-Johnson
11 and extend to the people of Eastland sincere best wishes for a
12 meaningful and memorable National Flag Day observance.