

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 366

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Clara Stearns Scarbrough for her many contributions to the people of Williamson County and the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Clara Stearns was born in Circleville and lived near the San Gabriel River until her family moved to nearby Taylor when she was 15; she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree and earned a master's degree in music from The University of Texas at Austin; and

WHEREAS, She taught at The University of Texas music school and headed music programs in Conroe and Georgetown; after she married Don Scarbrough, she started managing newspapers; and

WHEREAS, While her husband was serving in World War II, she managed the *Taylor Times*, which she and Don had founded in 1939; ten years later, they sold that newspaper and purchased the *Williamson County Sun* in Georgetown, where the couple raised their two daughters, Linda and Donna; and

WHEREAS, Clara managed the newspaper's business and circulation and wrote award-winning articles; she and Don eventually acquired half a dozen newspapers in Central Texas; in addition to managing their newspaper businesses, the couple championed the historic preservation and beautification of Georgetown; and

WHEREAS, History is Clara's great love, and after observing the radical changes in Williamson County as a result of the construction of Interstate 35 and two large dams on the San Gabriel River, she decided to document the county she had known, an ethnically diverse place where King Cotton, cattle barons, young universities, and political kingpins intersected; and

WHEREAS, The book she spent seven years writing, *Land of Good Water: A Williamson County, Texas, History*, won the state's highest award for regional history after it was published in 1973; and

WHEREAS, The book sparked broad interest in local history and architectural landmarks in Georgetown and laid the foundation for restoration of its historic courthouse square; it raised the level of local history telling in Texas and provided a model for scores of historians; and

WHEREAS, Clara Scarbrough is now 88 years old and maintains an active lifestyle; she hosts regular meetings of the Williamson County Historical Commission, which she helped to establish three decades ago; and

WHEREAS, She practices the piano daily and reads histories and biographies; she enjoys her two grandchildren, Grace Josey and Kate Thurmond, and she is an active member of the First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, An exemplary Texas citizen, Clara Scarbrough is highly respected for her historical expertise and her talent as a writer, and she deserves recognition for her many accomplishments and her invaluable contributions to Williamson County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend Clara Stearns Scarbrough for her exceptional achievements and the positive influence she has had on the lives of others and extend best wishes to her for the future; and, be it further

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

Ogden

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 18, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate