

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 11

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The city of San Antonio lost one of its most beloved  
2 residents and admired civic leaders with the death of Amy Freeman  
3 Lee on July 20, 2004, at the age of 89; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Seguin in 1914, Ms. Lee attended The  
5 University of Texas and graduated from Incarnate Word College,  
6 where she went on to earn several degrees, including an honorary  
7 doctorate of letters in 1965; and

8           WHEREAS, A self-taught watercolor painter who won  
9 international acclaim, Ms. Lee was honored with more than 1,250  
10 exhibitions of her work; she also amassed an important collection  
11 of art and made significant donations to a number of museums,  
12 including the McNay Art Museum and the San Antonio Museum of Art; an  
13 early supporter of the Witte Museum, a member of the Incarnate Word  
14 College Fine Arts Advisory Council, and a charter member of The  
15 University of Texas College of Fine Arts Council, this dedicated  
16 patron of the arts was also a founder of the San Antonio Art League  
17 and the Texas Watercolor Society; and

18           WHEREAS, Amy Freeman Lee delivered thousands of lectures  
19 during her lifetime that invariably stressed her conviction in the  
20 importance of civility and humanity, and her razor-sharp wit and  
21 inspiring eloquence made her one of the most popular speakers in the  
22 state; she was a respected writer and art critic as well, authoring  
23 four books and writing for hundreds of publications; and

24           WHEREAS, Perhaps her most important legacy lies in the

1 abundant support, creativity, and leadership she offered to  
2 countless groups; deeply committed to literacy, education, and the  
3 liberal arts, she served as the head of the board of trustees of  
4 Incarnate Word College from 1973 to 1990, nurturing the school's  
5 programs in music, art, and theater, and as a member of the board of  
6 the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and chairman of the board  
7 of Wilhelm Schole International, avidly championing its Teacher  
8 Training Institute in Houston, and she was additionally known as a  
9 strong supporter of the nursing profession; one of the principal  
10 founders of the San Antonio Symphony, she was also a member of the  
11 board of the Humane Society of the United States, which conferred on  
12 her its highest honor, the Joseph Wood Krutch Medal, in 1985; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition, Ms. Lee was the recipient of  
14 innumerable other awards and honors, including the Maury Maverick  
15 Award from the American Civil Liberties Union, a lifetime  
16 achievement award from the University Round Table, and the  
17 Imperishable Star Award, a lifetime honor conveyed by Wilhelm  
18 Schole International; a recipient of the first Living Treasure of  
19 San Antonio Award for Outstanding Achievement as Artist, Scholar,  
20 Humanist and The Woman That Makes a Difference Award presented by  
21 the International Women's Forum, she was also elected to the Texas  
22 Women's Hall of Fame; and

23 WHEREAS, A crusader against racism and discrimination from  
24 her earliest years, she fought for racial and social equality in San  
25 Antonio, urging fellow board members of cultural organizations to  
26 reach out to the Hispanic and African American communities;  
27 moreover, she was appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to serve

1 on the Grievance Oversight Committee, Lawyer Discipline  
2 Commission, and was elected to the board of trustees of the Texas  
3 Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism; and

4 WHEREAS, Amy Freeman Lee lived her life in service to the  
5 arts, education, and humanitarianism, truly making a profound  
6 difference in her community and beyond; although this remarkable  
7 Texas lady will be sorely missed, the legacy of strength,  
8 intelligence, courage, compassion, and selflessness that she  
9 leaves behind will continue to inspire others for many years to  
10 come; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Amy Freeman Lee and  
13 that sincere sympathy be extended to her family: to her foster  
14 daughter, Marilyn Wilhelm, and her goddaughter, Carol Karotkin; to  
15 her second cousin, Maxine "Jackie" Goodwin; and to her many dear  
16 friends and admirers throughout the state and the nation; and, be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House  
20 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Amy  
21 Freeman Lee.