

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 863

In Memory
of
Gertrude Kirkwood Tapscott

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Prairie View in mourning the loss of Gertrude Kirkwood Tapscott, who died April 11, 2005, at the age of 105; and

WHEREAS, Born May 23, 1899, in Colmesneil, Texas, to John Henry and Emma Judy Charlotte Crain Kirkwood, Gertrude moved to Prairie View in 1923, where she met James R. Tapscott; they were married in 1926; and

WHEREAS, That year Mrs. Tapscott enrolled in Prairie View A&M College, and she graduated with a bachelor's degree in home economics in 1931; following her graduation, she began a teaching career that lasted 34 years; and

WHEREAS, After she retired, her home became a haven for students and staff from the college; Mrs. Tapscott treasured those memories, and she considered helping young people to further their careers and lives as among her greatest achievements; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tapscott was given numerous awards and honors for her service to her community, including the Purple Heart Award from the Prairie View Retired Teachers Association and a gold bracelet for being the 50th year honoree in 1981 from the home economics department at Prairie View A&M University; and

WHEREAS, Some of the organizations to which she donated her time and talents were the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, the Eastern Stars, and the Retired Teachers Association; she was a longstanding member of Mount Corinth Baptist Church, where she served as Sunday school superintendent; and

WHEREAS, In further recognition of her unique contributions to the Prairie View community, she was the guest of honor at Amistad Bookstore's "An Evening with Gertrude Tapscott" in 2004, and May 23 was proclaimed "Gertrude Kirkwood Tapscott Day" in Prairie View; and

WHEREAS, A woman of courage, strength, and kindness, Mrs. Tapscott gave generously of herself to others, and her wisdom, warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew her; and

WHEREAS, A devoted mother and aunt, she leaves behind memories that will be cherished forever by her family and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Gertrude Kirkwood Tapscott: her son, Charles W. Tapscott; her nephews, Albert R. Bean, Dell R. Bean, James Weldon, Richard Clayton, Clarence Kirkwood, Glen Kirkwood, James Kirkwood, Odell Kirkwood, Daniel Kirkwood, and Charles Kirkwood; and her nieces, Amy Bean Boykin, Edna Bean Smith, and Gwendolyn Kirkwood; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gertrude Kirkwood Tapscott.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 11, 2005, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate