

By: Isett

H.C.R. No. 178

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Louise Hopkins Underwood has been honored by the
2 YWCA of Lubbock with a Women of Excellence Award for her remarkable
3 achievements in the field of arts and culture, and her selection for
4 this tribute is most fitting; and

5 WHEREAS, The Women of Excellence Award was created in 1989 to
6 emphasize the vital roles that women play in both the civic and
7 professional worlds, honoring women for their achievements and for
8 their contributions to the community as leaders and volunteers; and

9 WHEREAS, Louise Underwood is one of the most influential
10 figures in arts and culture in Lubbock; her efforts began soon after
11 she moved to the city in 1946, when she became involved in the
12 remodeling of St. Paul's-on-the-Plains Episcopal Church kitchen
13 and served on the advisory board for the Lubbock Little Theater; and

14 WHEREAS, A woman who appreciates creative endeavors, she has
15 been a tireless supporter of individual artists, the Museum of
16 Texas Tech University and the university's College of Visual and
17 Performing Arts, the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, Ballet Lubbock,
18 and local theater groups; she was a founding member of the Texas
19 Alliance for Education and the Arts, the Lubbock Cultural and Arts
20 Commission, and Acteens, a student writing and acting initiative;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Mrs. Underwood has been involved extensively with
23 the West Texas Museum Association, where she cocreated the WTMA
24 Kite Fest in 1986 to involve children and families in the museum;

1 she has also opened her home for numerous receptions and dinners for
2 specific artists and educational and fund-raising efforts; and

3 WHEREAS, With vision and determination, this notable Texan
4 and cofounder Neal Hanslik developed an ambitious proposal in 1997
5 to build a community arts center; the dream has become a reality,
6 thanks in large part to Mrs. Underwood's research, efforts to gain
7 local support, and fund-raising ability; the Louise Hopkins
8 Underwood Center for the Arts opened in 2007, providing offices for
9 nonprofit organizations, a theater, and space for classes,
10 exhibitions, meetings, and studios; and

11 WHEREAS, A Champion of the Arts award from the Texas Alliance
12 for Education and the Arts and the Dynamic Force Award from the
13 Lubbock Arts Alliance are among Mrs. Underwood's most cherished
14 honors; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to being a patron of the arts, she has
16 also shared her time with the League of Women Voters, the library,
17 Lubbock Heritage Society, Planned Parenthood, and Hospice of
18 Lubbock; honoring her late husband, Harris, Mrs. Underwood
19 established an endowed professorship in orthopedics at the Texas
20 Tech University Health Sciences Center in 1997; and

21 WHEREAS, With her receipt of a Women of Excellence Award,
22 Louise Underwood joins an elite group of women who have been honored
23 by the YWCA of Lubbock; distinguished by her intelligence,
24 determination, and talent, she is indeed a worthy role model for
25 this and future generations; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
27 hereby congratulate Louise Hopkins Underwood on receiving a 2009

1 Women of Excellence Award from the YWCA of Lubbock and extend to her
2 sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Mrs. Underwood as an expression of high regard by the
6 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.