

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 619

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of McAllen lost its revered "first lady"
2 with the passing of Lucile McKee Hendricks on November 6, 2007, at
3 the age of 98; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of B. F. and Sallie McKee, the former
5 Lucile McKee was born in Lebanon, Tennessee, on November 5, 1909;
6 her family moved to McAllen when she was a teenager and she attended
7 Edinburg Junior College, which later became The University of
8 Texas–Pan American; in 1927, she married Harold Hendricks, a
9 builder, and the couple later became the parents of two treasured
10 daughters, Ruth and Judith; and

11 WHEREAS, The hardworking young couple operated a gas station
12 and a boarding house during the Great Depression and began
13 investing in property; as the economy recovered, the construction
14 business prospered, and Mrs. Hendricks learned every aspect of it
15 by handling the bookkeeping and various other duties for the
16 company that her husband founded; while Mr. Hendricks handled
17 Brownsville and Laredo projects, Mrs. Hendricks went on to direct
18 operations in McAllen, and she oversaw construction of numerous
19 prominent commercial buildings; and

20 WHEREAS, After her husband died in 1964, Mrs. Hendricks ran
21 the company, and for years she was the only female member of the
22 Associated General Contractors in Texas; she became the first woman
23 to chair McAllen's Building Board of Adjustments and Appeals and
24 also chaired the Housing Authority Commission and served on the

1 Planning and Zoning Commission; moreover, she became the first
2 female elected official in Hidalgo County when she became a member
3 of the McAllen school board, and in 1959, she became the board's
4 first female president; and

5 WHEREAS, This endlessly energetic Texan was involved in
6 myriad aspects of civic life, among them state politics,
7 philanthropy, and the local cultural scene; she led the drive to
8 establish a civic center in McAllen and was a founder of the Rio
9 Grande Valley International Music Festival; during the 1950s, she
10 chaired the Mothers' March on Polio, and in her later years, Mrs.
11 Hendricks volunteered her time to Leadership McAllen, giving
12 historical lectures, and supported such organizations as the Zonta
13 Club, the McAllen Citizens League, and the Rio Grande chapter of the
14 Daughters of the American Revolution; and

15 WHEREAS, In February 2009, the McAllen Independent School
16 District recognized her long involvement in education by dedicating
17 an elementary school in her honor; Mrs. Hendricks received
18 countless other accolades over the years, among them the Woman of
19 the Year award from the chamber of commerce and the Humanitarian of
20 the Year award from the Easter Seals organization; in addition, she
21 was named Republican of the Decade for Hidalgo County; and

22 WHEREAS, Lucile McKee Hendricks was a remarkable woman who
23 excelled in many arenas and was a tireless advocate for education
24 and the arts, and her multifaceted influence will continue to be
25 felt in McAllen for years to come; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Lucile McKee

1 Hendricks and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family:
2 to her daughter, Judith Rodriguez; to her grandsons, Gerry
3 Rodriguez and his wife, Cass, and Hal Summers and his wife, Christi;
4 to her great-grandsons, Harry and Diego Rodriguez and Kruger
5 Summers; and to her other relatives and her many friends and
6 admirers; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lucile
10 McKee Hendricks.