

By: Darby

H.R. No. 899

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The city of San Angelo lost a remarkable  
2 philanthropist with the death of Eva Camunez Tucker on June 24,  
3 2007, at the age of 96; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in San Angelo on April 9, 1911, the former Eva  
5 Camunez was the daughter of Josefa and Reynaldo Camunez; they sent  
6 her to Incarnate Word Academy in San Antonio because of segregation  
7 in local schools, but eventually prevailed on San Angelo High  
8 School to admit her; she became its first Hispanic graduate and went  
9 on to earn her teaching certificate from Angelo State University;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, This gifted educator began her career in Mertzon;  
12 the town hired her to teach Mexican American children, but she could  
13 find no place to live there, so sheepshearers transported her from  
14 her residence in San Angelo; after moving on to Ballinger, she was  
15 soon promoted to the post of principal; she served her country  
16 during World War II as a mail censor and then as a translator for the  
17 state department in Washington, D.C.; and

18           WHEREAS, On December 30, 1948, she married Art Tucker, an  
19 independent oilman; the couple settled in Ballinger, where Mrs.  
20 Tucker began running the office for her husband, a responsibility  
21 she carried out for nearly three decades; the couple relocated to  
22 Lueders after buying a refinery and enjoyed a rewarding marriage  
23 until Mr. Tucker's death in 1975; and

24           WHEREAS, Mrs. Tucker returned to San Angelo in 1976 and built

1 her husband's legacy into a sizeable fortune through her skill as an  
2 investor; she lived modestly in the home her father had built and  
3 donated millions of dollars to religious, educational, and  
4 charitable causes, as well as to the arts; Mrs. Tucker created the  
5 Up and Coming Scholars program at San Angelo State and provided  
6 funds not only to her own beloved St. Joseph Catholic Church, but  
7 also to churches around the state and in other countries; and

8         WHEREAS, The myriad beneficiaries of the Art and Eva Camunez  
9 Tucker Foundation included the West Texas Rehabilitation Center,  
10 the San Angelo Symphony, the Concho Valley Home for Girls, and the  
11 West Texas Collection of San Angelo University; Mrs. Tucker was a  
12 patron to such West Texas artists as painter Rene Alvarado and  
13 sculptor Raul Ruiz, from whom she commissioned a bronze statue of  
14 sheepshearers for ASU in gratitude and remembrance of the men who  
15 had brought her to and from her classroom in Mertzon so many years  
16 before; and

17         WHEREAS, Beloved by her community, Mrs. Tucker was named  
18 Citizen of the Year by the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce in 1995  
19 and received numerous other accolades, among them ASU's first  
20 honorary doctorate and designation by the Women's Chamber of  
21 Commerce of Texas as one of the Texas Women of the Century; she was  
22 invested in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the second  
23 highest and second oldest of papal orders, and was named a papal  
24 lady, the highest award a Catholic laywoman can receive; and

25         WHEREAS, Eva Tucker earned the lasting admiration of her  
26 community as a benefactor and as a role model, and throughout her  
27 life, she inspired others with her devotion, generosity, and caring

1 nature; now, therefore, be it

2           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Eva Camunez Tucker and  
4 that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it  
5 do so in memory of Eva Camunez Tucker.