

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 1200

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Williamson County mourn the passing of  
2 Clara May Stearns Scarbrough of Georgetown, a woman of remarkable  
3 influence, intelligence, and talent, who passed away on November  
4 28, 2008, at the age of 94; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Circleville on August 17, 1914, Mrs.  
6 Scarbrough settled in Taylor with her family at the age of 15 and  
7 graduated from Taylor High School in 1932 as an honor student;  
8 showing a strong creative flair, she privately studied piano and  
9 art during her high school years and served as an accompanist for  
10 several church choirs and a civic opera group; and

11           WHEREAS, Mrs. Scarbrough went on to attend The University of  
12 Texas, where she was active in music, literary, drama, and social  
13 organizations; she was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society before  
14 graduating summa cum laude with degrees in music and English; and

15           WHEREAS, In 1940, she married Donald Lee Scarbrough, and the  
16 couple worked together to publish newspapers in Taylor, Elgin,  
17 Granger, Thorndale, and Georgetown; moving to Georgetown in 1948,  
18 they purchased the *Williamson County Sun*, which remains in the  
19 family today; and

20           WHEREAS, Mrs. Scarbrough's noteworthy career in academia and  
21 her public service contributions grew dramatically following her  
22 move to Georgetown; she taught journalism at Southwestern  
23 University, supervised the music programs at Georgetown schools,  
24 and served on the founding boards that established the Georgetown

1 Public Library, the Mood-Heritage Museum, and the Georgetown  
2 Heritage Society; from 1967 to 1969, she taught in the Music  
3 Department at The University of Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the most notable accomplishments of this  
5 distinguished and learned woman was a book she authored in 1973,  
6 entitled *Land of Good Water: A Williamson County History*; this  
7 significant publication laid the foundation for a preservation  
8 movement that was embraced across the county and is regarded as the  
9 leading reference on Williamson County history; and

10 WHEREAS, Clara Scarbrough excelled at every undertaking:  
11 musician, editor, publisher, historian, author, and teacher; she  
12 made a positive difference in the lives of countless Central  
13 Texans, and her legacy of important works will long be remembered;  
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Clara May Stearns  
17 Scarbrough and that deepest sympathy be extended to the members of  
18 her family: to her daughters, Linda Scarbrough and her husband,  
19 Clark Thurmond, and Donna Josey; to her granddaughters, Grace Josey  
20 and her husband, Jared Pyka, and Kate Thurmond; and to her other  
21 relatives and friends; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Clara May  
25 Stearns Scarbrough.