

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1520

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 100th birthday of an esteemed Texan is indeed  
2 cause for celebration, and Jean Wilson Tunnell of Van is marking  
3 this significant milestone in her life on June 2, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Denison in 1915, the former Jean Wilson is  
5 the daughter of John and Helen Wilson; growing up on the family farm  
6 near Ben Wheeler in Van Zandt County, she was active in 4-H and  
7 advanced to state competition several times; as a teenager, she  
8 rode her horse to Van High School, where she graduated as  
9 valedictorian; and

10 WHEREAS, She worked her way through Trinity University and  
11 went on to complete her master's degree at East Texas State Teachers  
12 College; she taught in Colfax, Ben Wheeler, and Union Hill, and in  
13 1942, she married Forrest Truman Tunnell; they settled in Dallas,  
14 where she was employed for several years as a caseworker for  
15 government benefit programs until the birth of a daughter, Joan,  
16 and then a son, Forrest; and

17 WHEREAS, After the death of Mrs. Tunnell's father, her  
18 husband bought out the other heirs to her family's ranch, and they  
19 moved to Van in 1959; she returned to teaching three years later and  
20 spent a dozen happy years developing innovative programs for  
21 English students at Van High School; moreover, she coached  
22 successful UIL contestants in spelling and essay writing and  
23 chaperoned band members to out-of-town performances; and

24 WHEREAS, Jean Tunnell retired following the untimely passing

1 of Mr. Tunnell in 1974, but she continued to benefit her community  
2 as a volunteer and as a member of the Van ISD school board; she also  
3 taught a Sunday school class until she was 91; devoted to her  
4 grandchildren, Rachel, Ellen, and Daniel Driver and Lauren and  
5 Wesley Tunnell, she provided funds for their college educations and  
6 set an example of independence and adventure by traveling to every  
7 continent except Antarctica; in more recent years, she has known  
8 the joy of welcoming nine great-grandchildren; and

9 WHEREAS, This cherished matriarch still resides in her  
10 longtime home, which she shares with her granddaughter Ellen  
11 Thompson and her three children; she keeps busy cooking, cheering  
12 for the Cowboys and Mavericks, completing two daily crossword  
13 puzzles, reading the editorial pages, and engaging in political  
14 discussions; and

15 WHEREAS, A source of tremendous wisdom and inspiration, Jean  
16 Tunnell has gracefully reached the century mark, and she continues  
17 to enrich the lives of all who are fortunate enough to know her;  
18 now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby congratulate Jean Wilson Tunnell on the occasion  
21 of her 100th birthday and extend to her sincere best wishes for  
22 continued happiness; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for Mrs. Tunnell as an expression of high regard by the  
25 Texas House of Representatives.