

By: Frullo

H.R. No. 1069

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Lubbock lost an admired philanthropist
2 and patron of the arts with the death of Louise Hopkins Underwood on
3 March 7, 2017, at the age of 97; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Houston on May 2, 1919, the former Louise
5 Hopkins was the daughter of Amy and Edwin Hopkins; her family moved
6 to Bronxville, New York, when she was a month old and returned to
7 Dallas in 1931; while a student at The University of Texas at
8 Austin, she met her future husband, Harris Underwood; they married
9 in October 1941, and during his service in World War II,
10 Mrs. Underwood moved to Lubbock; the couple became the proud
11 parents of six children, Jane, Gwynne, Harris, Amy, David, and
12 Mary, and she ensured that as they were growing up, they were
13 exposed to theater, music, and art; and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Underwood began volunteering in the community
15 while her children were young, becoming a founding member of the
16 boards of the Sherick Memorial Home and the ACTeens theater program
17 for troubled youth; in addition, she and her husband funded the
18 Bio-Cybernetics Lab at the Children's Clinic at the Texas Tech
19 University medical school, and they were instrumental in the
20 creation of the pediatric orthopaedic chair at the TTU Health
21 Sciences Center Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and
22 Rehabilitation; and

23 WHEREAS, Opening their home to benefit the Lubbock Symphony
24 Orchestra, Texas Tech, and many other worthy organizations and

1 institutions, the Underwoods hosted multiple musicales and
2 fund-raisers; they became strong supporters of TTU College of
3 Architecture initiatives, and in the mid-1990s, Mrs. Underwood
4 became deeply involved in every aspect of the redevelopment of a
5 blighted industrial area as the Lubbock Regional Arts Center; her
6 tireless efforts furthered its growth as a cultural jewel,
7 educational facility, community center, and stimulus for the local
8 economy, and she played a key role in the establishment of live-work
9 spaces for artists in the Charles Adams Studio Project; in
10 addition, she was a founding member of the Texas Alliance for
11 Education and the Arts and of the Lubbock Cultural Arts Commission,
12 and for more than a half century, she served as a volunteer and
13 trustee for the Museum of Texas Tech University; she also gave
14 generously of her time and talents in behalf of the TTU College of
15 Visual and Performing Arts, Ballet Lubbock, three local theater
16 groups, and other organizations; along the way, she made a positive
17 impact on the careers of many individual artists; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2004, an anonymous benefactor donated a
19 significant sum to the arts center with the stipulation that it be
20 renamed the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts;
21 Mrs. Underwood was the recipient of numerous other accolades as
22 well, among them the Dynamic Force award from the Lubbock Arts
23 Alliance, the Champion of the Arts award from the Texas Alliance for
24 Education and the Arts, and the Mahon Award for Extraordinary
25 Public Service from the Lubbock Chapter of the Association for
26 Women in Communications; in 2008, she was inducted into the Texas
27 Women's Hall of Fame; and

1 WHEREAS, Louise Hopkins Underwood enriched the lives of
2 innumerable people through her tremendous efforts to increase
3 access to the arts and to support the development of a vibrant arts
4 community, and those who were privileged to share in her love and
5 friendship will forever remember the grace, enthusiasm, and joyous
6 spirit that she brought to every endeavor she undertook; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Louise Hopkins
10 Underwood and extend deepest condolences to all who mourn her
11 passing; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Louise
15 Hopkins Underwood.