

By: Burrows

H.R. No. 1653

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.