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By:  Stephenson H.C.R. No. 88

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Merle Reue Hudgins of Wharton has received a Yellow Rose of Texas award from Governor Greg Abbott; and

WHEREAS, Established in the 1950s by Governor Allan Shivers, the Yellow Rose of Texas award recognizes Texas women who have demonstrated exceptional service to their communities; and

WHEREAS, A fitting recipient of this notable accolade, Mrs. Hudgins has dedicated many years to documenting and sharing the history of Wharton County; appointed to the Wharton County Historical Commission in 1969, she has been an active member of the organization for more than 50 years and has served as its chair; she is the author of numerous publications on the county's history, including her book *War Between the States Changed Texas Forever*, and she was invited as a contributing author for the *Handbook of Texas* by the Texas State Historical Association; she gives freely of her time and expertise to organizations such as the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, and for many years, she has spoken at the annual banquet for the William H. Wharton Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hudgins moved to Wharton with her family when she was a child, and returned to the area after college to pursue a career as a writer; in 1976, she joined the *Wharton Journal-Spectator* as a staff columnist, and her work has also appeared in the *El Campo Leader-News*; an alumna of Wharton County Junior College, she has served on the institution's board of trustees for more than a decade; in all her endeavors, she enjoys the love and support of her husband, Joe Dawson Hudgins; and

WHEREAS, Through her exceptional efforts, Merle Hudgins has significantly contributed to the study of Texas history, and she may indeed reflect with pride on her many accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby congratulate Merle Reue Hudgins on her receipt of the Yellow Rose of Texas award and extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mrs. Hudgins as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.