

2

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

Hays County Commissioners Court

Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

Request forms are due in Microsoft Word Format via email by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

AGENDA ITEM

Adopt a Resolution recognizing the 90th birthday of Dottie Simms.

ITEM TYPE	MEETING DATE	AMOUNT REQUIRED
PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS	September 24, 2013	

LINE ITEM NUMBER

AUDITOR USE ONLY

AUDITOR COMMENTS:

PURCHASING GUIDELINES FOLLOWED: N/A **AUDITOR REVIEW:** N/A

REQUESTED BY	SPONSOR	CO-SPONSOR
Michele Tuttle	CONLEY	N/A

SUMMARY

FILED: 09 24 13
HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
Resolution # 28327 VOL V PG 244



A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOGNIZING DOROTHY "DOTTIE" PAYNE SIMS ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY AND HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN HAYS COUNTY

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dorothy "Dottie" Payne Sims was born Dorothy Lucille Payne on September 11, 1923 in a one room house on the corner of Grove and Hull streets in San Marcos, Texas to Oscar Llewellyn and Beatrice Hill Payne, and where she is the third generation direct descendent from Texas frontier leader General Edward Burleson; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from San Marcos High School in 1940 where she played Rattler Volleyball and attended Southwest Texas Teacher's College perusing a degree in business where she played basketball; and where she worked at Gary Air Force base as a telephone operator; and

WHEREAS, she married her high school sweetheart James Patrick Frazier on August 5, 1945; and became an Army wife for 18 years, living in Massachusetts, Colorado, Washington DC, and where, upon the death of her beloved husband, she came back home to San Marcos, the heart of Hays County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dottie Sims has been politically educated since she was a child and where she has proudly voted in every election since she was eligible to vote and is still active in politics; and where she had lifelong associations and friendships with many Texas politicians including Jake Pickle, Sam Rayburn, and Lyndon Baines Johnson; and

WHEREAS, she, her mother, her grandmother, her daughter and her granddaughter all worked in telephone positions where both Dottie Sims and her mother worked for the San Marcos Telephone company; and whereas she and W.C. Carson formed Balcones Real Estate; and

WHEREAS, she has been a member of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce for 46 years and where she was the first female ambassador at the chamber; and where she married chamber president Jim Sims, tragically only a few months before he passed way; and where her inner strength has been shown in many ways including her overcoming a deadly battle with cancer and is proudly a cancer survivor; and

WHEREAS, she was appointed by the Hays County Commissioner's Court in 1981 to fill an unexpected vacancy in the position of Hays County Treasurer; and where she served the tax payers of Hays County in this capacity until her retirement in December of 1994; and where she was a passionate and diligent County Treasurer letting her perfectionism and attention to detail lead her to become one of the most respected politicians in the history of Hays County; and whereas her displays of courage, tact, authority, professionalism, loyalty, and excellence was reflected in her conservative and precise management of Hays County funds; and

WHEREAS, she owned the Hays County Jail for decades refusing to sell it to numerous Historians who wanted to move the Jail out of San Marcos, and where she eventually sold this amazing piece of Hays County history to the Hays County Historical Commission and where this property is in the process of being restored and available for all residents to visit and enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy P. Sims has been involved in many civic activities throughout her life within the community including Chilympiad and numerous parades; and where she has received the Distinguished Alumni award from the San Marcos High School Alumni Association and has been inducted into the San Marcos Women's Hall of Fame ; and

WHEREAS, although Mrs. Dottie Sims was an extensive world traveler; her soul and dedication has always been to the betterment of her community and the residents of Texas and of Hays County where she has been frequently seen either driving her MG or walking in her beautiful trade mark high heeled shoes; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dottie Sims is a person of strength and faith with a reputation of integrity, fairness and kindness, and whereby in the example she has made of her life, she has been such a valuable asset to Hays County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioner's Court of Hays County, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Hays County does hereby wish to support the recognition of Dorothy Payne Sims on her 90th birthday and her accomplishments in Hays County.

Adopted this 24th day of September, 2013

Bert Cobb MD
Hays County Judge

Debbie Ingalsbe, Precinct 1

Will Conley, Precinct 3



Mark Jones, Precinct 2

Ray Whisenant, Precinct 4

Attest:

Liz Gonzales, County Clerk

Dottie Sims, was born Dorothy Lucille Payne and is the third generation direct descendent from Texas frontier leader General Edward Burlison – a family pedigree and heritage that some say gives her the birthright of Texas Royalty. Born September 11, 1923 in a one room house on the corner of Grove and Hull streets in San Marcos, Texas to Oscar Llewellyn and Beatrice Hill Payne, Dorothy Lucille Payne was destined for greatness. She grew up in the years where you knew everyone in San Marcos and were related to half of the community. She and her late brother Oscar Lee Payne were inseparable and were involved in various activities within the school district. Dottie loved sports and played Rattler volleyball at San Marcos High School.

When she graduated from San Marcos High School in 1940 she attended Southwest Texas Teachers College, pursuing a degree in Business. During this time she played basketball, worked at Gary Air Force base as a night telephone operator and took up flying as a hobby. After two years of books and exams, she traded in the loafers she used for walks up “the hill” for her “legendary high heels” - what would become one of her most noticeable trademarks – as she began her travels around the world.

On August 5, 1945 she married her high school sweetheart, army career man James Patrick Frazier, at the First United Methodist Church on August 5, 1945. Their first tour of duty was Fort Devens, near Boston, where she had her first encounters with below zero weather and Italian food (PIZZA!). From there it was back Texas for a brief tour of duty at Ft. Hood where their daughter, Michele Lee Frazier was born. Next they found themselves back in the land of the cold and snow again when they were stationed at Ft. Collins, outside Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Soon after came every military career officer’s coveted assignment, Washington, D.C. where Dottie got her first hands-on taste of politics. While stationed in D.C. she met congressman Jake Pickle and established a lifelong mutual respect and friendship with the most loveable congressman from the great state of Texas. She made friends with Sam Rayburn (“our Sam” as he was referred to at home) and renewed a multi-generational family friendship with a tall, lanky, foul-mouthed, no filter, up and coming politician by the name of Lyndon Baines Johnson who seemed to be on the fast track to greatness. Dottie’s grandmother, Alice Hill, had known the Johnson family well and spent years around Lyndon as a child. If being family friends for decades hadn’t made any difference, then there was little room for doubt that Dottie’s political ambitions would steer her to the Democratic side after her time with the future president in Washington. It was clear – there was only one party choice in her family household - if you knew Lyndon, you were evermore born and bred a Texas Democrat. She still has many telegraphs addressed from Lyndon at the White House to her and her family secured in her personal files and albums.

While in D. C. she and James Patrick would become members of the Texas State Society, a social society club formed to throw parties, balls and galas...err..."to foster and encourage a fraternal spirit among the Texans at the National Capital, to render assistance when necessary to all sons and daughters of the Lone Star State, and to increase their patriotic love for Texas and the American Nation", which only cemented her strong Texas roots, heritage and title of an extraordinary hostess. After Washington the army took them to the assignment of a lifetime in the jungles of Panama. Here life moved at a leisurely pace for the Military brass and their families, where conversations back home to Texas took place over cocktails and ham radios, somewhere in-between golf tournaments and officer parties.

In 1960 the Frazier family returned to their beloved Texas and once again stationed at Ft. Hood in Killeen. Three years later, in 1963, Dottie lost her beloved, her soul mate, to a severe cerebral aneurysm. Mother and daughter returned to San Marcos to be nearer to family close friends. She went back to work for the San Marcos Telephone Company (the third generation telephone operator in the family) but was quickly lured away by longtime family friend, W.C. Carson, who spotted an opportunity to work beside one of the town’s most well-know citizens and ambassadors, and to have the first and only woman agent in the county. Together they formed Balcones Real Estate and she quickly became one of San Marcos’ most successful businesswomen – investing, developing and selling lots on Spring Lake Hill, Valley View and along the San Marcos River. It must have been her success and high heels that caught the attention of local insurance salesman and Chamber of Commerce president, Jim Sims. In only a matter of months they met, fell in love and married. Together they built a house in Wimberley overlooking the most beautiful scenery along Blanco River. Sims’ River Bend, as they called it) was one of her favorite places. Tragically she lost

her second husband Jim Sims to cancer just three short months after marriage. She was heartbroken and devastated.

Dottie threw herself into her real estate career, community projects and giving back for all she had earned. With another Hays County fixture, Chester Franklin, she helped contribute to the building of the Wimberley VFW Rodeo Arena where she purchased the first, and best, viewing box at the arena. She was one of the first women to serve in the Chamber of Commerce. During her time she became one of the longest serving members and Ambassadors. Looking for more to do, she and her close pals created a community-wide competition called "Chilympiad". They formed the infamous the El Jefe group and she spent many years planning, organizing and supporting the now world famous chili cook-off - most of the time as front gate "bouncer" - on the front lines where she liked it.

After thirteen successful years in the real estate field she received a call one evening from an old friend who was county judge. He asked her if she would step into a position that was being vacated and if she would consider running for County Treasurer when the term expired. She thought it over with her family and the very next morning she accepted the position. She filled in as Treasurer for a few months and soon the taste for public service and politics was running wild through her veins. Finally she had entered the field she was passionate about. She became a dominate force that pursued her ambitions with little care or concern that it was an entirely male dominated field. Within a few months of accepting the vacated position she launched her election campaign; but unbeknownst to her, she would be fighting two opponents. Dottie was diagnosed with breast cancer. Between campaign rallies and chemotherapy treatments she had to face the tragic passing of her mother. She was soon confronted with the devastating decision of undergoing a mastectomy, or risk losing her own life. The surgery was a success. Not only had she won her battle with breast cancer, but she was also politically victorious, winning her first election by a landslide - never to be challenged again during her thirteen years in office. Having defeated two opponents and overcoming personal loss, she remained ever the positive and energetic go-getter we all know.

Dottie served Hays County with distinction, honor, grace and humor, never with a hint of scandal. Her successor and protégé, Michele Tuttle (current Hays County Treasurer), stated that, "She was such a perfectionist that at first when I began working for her it drove me crazy. Later, when I became Treasurer, I finally understood what she had known all along and that we were operating with other people's money and perfectionism is a must, it's our duty." There were times that you would pass by the building late at night and see the lights on in her offices where she and her staff would literally be searching for a few pennies; supper was delivered and no one left until everything was accounted for and balanced! Within the political good-ole-boy's club she became known as one of the notorious "Three B's", alongside her friends Lydell Clayton (County Clerk) and Ruth Clayton (County Tax Assessor). Smoother tongued characters politely referred to them as the "Three Queens", but each knew what was meant and the three women wore it as a badge of pride, much to the discontent of a courthouse full of "boys" who didn't always get their way. She said recently with a big grin, "Being county treasurer was like being married to six different men with six different pocketbooks. It wasn't half bad... I knew and they knew, they needed my signature to spend they money!"

Through the years she mentored many family members, employees, freshmen politicians who are thinking of entering politics. She has been mistaken many times over the years for another Texas politician and former acquaintance, the honorable Gov. Ann Richards - both legendary for their silver coiffured locks and fierce Texas determination. When a passerby asked if she was Governor Richards she would smile and say, "No, I don't ride a motorcycle." But that never mattered to any of her loyal friends and supporters who thought she could have made it to the Governor's mansion without that motorcycle, if she'd tried.

She is an exception to the rule in a world where honesty and grace seems to be lacking. She plays by the rules and perhaps a bit naively she expects the same from anyone she knows. She was raised in a generation where your handshake and your verbal promise was your word. If you disappoint her, you might never know. (But if you see the cutting of her hazel-grey eyes and a sideward glance, you better start thinking of just how you are going to explain yourself.) She exemplifies the word class and is a regal lady in every sense of the word. She displays courage, tact, authority, professionalism, loyalty, passion, excellence in parenting and grand parenting. Most of all, she represents strength.

Dottie retired from Hays County thirteen years after her service began. But that didn't mean she slowed down. Little changed as she threw herself into every activity she could find; commenting numerous times, "How the hell did I manage to fit all these things into my life while I worked. If I wouldn't known I was going to be this busy, I wouldn't have retired!" One activity she became very passionate and determined about was reconnecting all of her San Marcos High School friends. She enlisted the help of her lifelong friend Helen Bingham Stephenson and together they started networking all over the world - contacting old friends and planning a huge reunion. They pulled it off. Together they coordinated and hosted an enormous Class of '40 reunion. What was once a regular meeting of about thirty attendees, became one of the largest reunion gatherings in the history of SMHS. The following years they combined several classes and reunited over six-hundred classmates and their spouses. In October 2008, Dottie receive the Distinguished Alumni award from the San Marcos High School Alumni Association. In 2009 she was inducted into the San Marcos Women's hall of fame.

Spending time with her family and friends fills up most of Dottie's schedule these days. She loves when people take the time to reminisce or hear a new, old story. She is without a doubt a legend; a queen, descended from a pure line of true Texas royalty.