

Proclamation

Recognizing Living Legend 2016 Iris Timmermann Schumann

WHEREAS, Iris Timmermann Schumann has spent much of her life in the determined, passionate pursuit of preserving New Braunfels' history, cataloguing and recording the documents, photographs and artifacts of her beloved hometown and teaching others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, Iris graduated from New Braunfels High School in 1948, leaving college to marry sweetheart Merritt Schumann and making New Braunfels their home after he returned home from service in Korea; and

WHEREAS, Raising five daughters in the New Braunfels Independent School District provided volunteer opportunities – such as serving as president of the Seele Elementary School, New Braunfels High School and NBISD City Council PTAs, earning her a PTA Life Membership Award in 1970; serving as an active Band Booster and receiving the NBISD's highest volunteer honor, the Silver Unicorn Award, in 1985; for 29 years volunteering as a Girl Scouts leader and serving on local and area councils; and, with Merritt, teaching Sunday school and vacation church schools, and leading youth fellowship programs at First Protestant Church; and

WHEREAS, Iris returned to college, graduating with a bachelor's degree in education in 1974 and a master's in history in 1980, going on to teach at Southwest Texas State University and work in the university's archives program, eventually becoming the Acting Archivist – receiving a Texas Archivist Designation in 1980 and among the first to receive National Archives Certification from the Society of American Archivists in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Her love for her hometown is best illustrated by her volunteer work at the Sophienburg Archives, where she volunteered as the archivist and for 13 years served as archives chair, using her education, professional knowledge and considerable energy to establish the systems still used today for recording, interpreting and preserving vital information – including introducing the first computer software, teaching genealogy, helping procure the old City Hall when the Sophienburg outgrew the Faust Library, helping ensure the success of the "Reflections" oral history radio program that continues to record and preserve the memories of New Braunfels residents, and raising money for and overseeing the historical restoration of the Main Plaza fountain during the city's sesquicentennial; and

WHEREAS, The NBISD Education Foundation named Iris a Distinguished Alumna in 2007, and the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce recognized her contributions with a President's Award for Historic Preservation in 1986, a place in Honors Hall in 1995 and ultimately with the Besserung Award – often referred to as the outstanding citizen's award – in 1999; and

WHEREAS, In her successful application to the City of New Braunfels for a seat on the Historic Landmark Commission, Iris noted that although "my employment résumé is very light," she did have *some* volunteer experience at the Sophienburg, and because of that experience, the Braunfels Foundation Trust has recognized Iris Schumann for her many contributions to her beloved hometown and named her a New Braunfels Living Legend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners Court of Comal County, Texas, proclaims **Iris Timmermann Schumann** to be a Living Legend in Comal County.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 29th day of September 2016.

Sherman Krause, County Judge

Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct 1

Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct 2

Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct 3

Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct 4

Attest: _____
Bobbie Koepf, County Clerk