State of Texas §
County of Comal §

Proclamation

Living Legend 2012 Helgard Tondorf Suhr-Hollis

Whereas: Helgard Tondorf Suhr-Hollis has the unique distinction of being the first Legend born outside the United States, in Potsdam, Germany, and has blended her love of German and Texas in many unique ways that she has earned the Braunfels Foundation Trust distinction of "Living Legend of New Braunfels; and

Whereas: Helgard lived in East Germany until 1949 when her family moved to West Germany; she attended school in Düsseldorf (Abitur) and graduated from the Höhere Fachschule (College) in Cologne with a BA in Home Administration; and

Whereas: In 1962, Helgard immigrated to San Antonio with best friend Christel, whose uncle had planted the idea of "Texas," as a place where it wasn't cold and where it didn't snow; the girls worked, saved their money, and with the uncle's help, found jobs in New Braunfels, with Helgard working at the Eden Home; and

Whereas: Helgard not only fell in love with the German town, but with local attorney, W. Frank Suhr; and in 1963, they married and began raising their family, Frank, Brigitte, and Monika; and after Frank's death, Helgard married Dr. Patrick Hollis in 1996 and became step-mother to Shawn and Erin; and

Whereas: Helgard became involved in New Braunfels, volunteering at Seele Elementary School, as a Girl Scout leader for ten years, and working with son, Frank's, Boy Scout troop for eight years; and

Whereas: In 1978, Helgard and Frank co-founded the German American Society of New Braunfels and in 1980, the Marsch-und-Wandergruppe (German Walking Club); she has walked in every state, in twenty-five countries, has worked at more than 60 "Walkfests," and has served as president of both organizations; and

Whereas: Helgard organized concerts for German Choirs, bands, artists, and folk dance groups; she is a member of the German American Heritage Society of Washington, DC, and an officer of the New Braunfels Partnership Committee, that promotes and nurtures the friendship between New Braunfels and her sister-city, Braunfels, Germany; and

Whereas: Helgard has received the Order of Merit in 1995, from the President of Germany, and the German-American Friendship Award from the German Ambassador for her service; she has also been awarded the highest honor a German citizen can receive, the Order of Merit, the equivalent of our Congressional Medal of Honor; and

Whereas: Helgard is a charter member of the New Braunfels Heritage Society and has been a docent for twenty five years; she is a life member of the Sophienburg Museum and has volunteered in the Archives translating German for twenty years; she is a member of the New Braunfels Conservation Society, helping organize two of their major fund drives; she is a member of the New Braunfels Rotary Club, serving as its president; has been a chair of the International Lane for fourteen years, and a member of mission trips to Guatemala and Mexico;

Whereas: Helgard is a life member of the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce where she has been a Blue Coat for twenty four years and a seven-time "Blue Coat of the Year;" she organized a city-wide effort which raised over $18,000 for 1,200 chairs for the New Braunfels Civic and Convention Center; helped raise funds for the Prince Solms statue; helped raise $200,000 to remodel the City Gazebo; and has been recognized by The Chamber, earning the esteemed Besserung Award and the President's Award; her portrait is hanging in Honors Hall; she received the Silver Unicorn Award from the New Braunfels Independent School District and the Community Builder Award from the New Braunfels Masonic Lodge.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Commissioners Court of Comal County recognizes **Helgard Tondorf Suhr-Hollis** to be a **2012 Living Legend in Comal County**, and an individual who has truly made a difference in Comal County.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 18th day of October 2012.

Sherman Krause, County Judge

Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct 1

Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct 2

Gregory Parker, Commissioner Pct 3

Jan Kennady, Commissioner Pct 4

COMMISSIONERS COURT COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS

Attest:
Joy Streater, County Clerk