

REMARKS BY FIRST LADY ANITA PERRY
TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY DINNER
Tribute to Mrs. Clements: History- Making Texan Award
AUSTIN, TEXAS
MARCH 1, 2007
INTRODUCED BY: Victor Alcorta III – President: TSHM Foundation

Thank you, Victor.

It is an honor to pay tribute tonight to a Texas icon...

A role model whose legacy is weaved throughout Texas history.

Rita Clements carried the responsibilities of Texas First Lady with proficiency, compassion and hard work. She was and remains always the

portrait of a great lady: with grace, the beauty of intelligence and sophistication.

Through her role, Rita made numerous notable contributions...

Not only is she the epitome of volunteers across Texas as the former spokesperson for the Governor's Office for Volunteer Services; she amplified the efforts of our state's foot soldiers – Texas volunteers and honored their work.

(pause)

And she always looked perfectly polished doing it! *(pause)*

Rita's focus also encompassed preservation and restoration of Texas' many historic landmarks.

Thanks to her foresight and dedication, today we boast a beautifully renovated Texas State Capitol.....A capitol that all Texans can be proud of and one that hosts thousands of visitors yearly.

And when Governor Clements took office, the Texas Governor's Mansion was in dire need of repair. Through Rita's support, the Friends of the Governor's Mansion was created and the structure underwent refurbishing, returning to a condition of grandeur.

Now, Texans' and Texas Governor's alike enjoy the fruits of your labor and share gratitude for your dedication to this incredible undertaking.

(pause)

And an annual tradition that began during Rita Clements tenure and one that I just completed before joining you this evening is the First Lady's Main Street tour. Rita knew that to revitalize our communities and celebrate our heritage ... we must support and promote our small Texas towns.

She knew the power of preservation and renovation in rejuvenating these communities and encouraging Texas citizens to greatness.

(pause)

An accomplished woman in every sense of the word, Rita serves as vice chair of the University of Texas System Board of Regents and as a member of The Salvation Army's Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex Advisory Board.

Among her **many many** honors, Rita has also been inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame – an honor reserved for Texas legends.

And even in the demanding position as a public servant, Rita always cherishes her role as a loving wife and mother and has devoted herself to her family and Governor Clements. Thank you Rita for the incredible example you have set.

(pause)

Your steadfast service and commitment to Texas is greatly appreciated.

Rita, you are truly a Texas icon... and a Texas treasure.

Congratulations on this well deserved honor.

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