

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

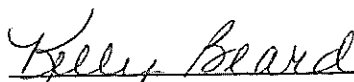
Special City Council Meeting with the Mayor & City Council Members  
to be held in the City Council Chambers,

APRIL 29, 1982  
10:00 a.m.

to honor Miss Tommie Clack as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 26th day of April, 1982, at 9:00 a.m.

  
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Assistant City Secretary

CHAMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL,  
THE CITY HALL, ABILENE, TEXAS

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met in Special Session, Thursday, April 29, 1982, at 10:00 a.m., with Kathy Webster, Mayor Pro Tempore, present and presiding. Councilmen Julian Bridges, Juan C. Rodriguez, A. E. Fogle, Jr., and L. D. Hilton present. City Manager Ed Seegmiller and Assistant City Secretary, Kelly Beard, present.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kathy Webster asked the Honor Guard from Dyess Air Force Base to post the colors. Afterward, the Abilene High School Band played the National Anthem. The invocation was given by Rev. E. P. Dentzer.

Mayor Pro Tempore Webster welcomed everyone to the Special Council meeting. Mayor Webster briefly talked about Miss Tommie's past school teaching experience and her accomplishments. TOMMIE  
CLACK DAY

Mayor Webster introduced Morgan Jones, Jr., C. G. Whitten, Peggy Beckham, Harold Hughes, and Ham Middlebrooks as Miss Tommie's former students who either at present or in the past have served on the Abilene School Board.

Mayor Webster introduced the former students of Miss Tommie who have served as Mayor of the City of Abilene: George Minter, J. C. Hunter, Jr., Ralph Hooks, Fred Lee Hughes and Elbert E. Hall. Only J. C. Hunter, Jr., and Ralph Hooks were able to attend.

Former Mayor, Ralph Hooks presented Miss Tommie with a proclamation proclaiming her as Mayor for the Day.

Councilman L. D. Hilton made the motion that the proclamation be approved and be made part of the records of the City of Abilene.

AYES: Councilmen Bridges, Rodriguez, Fogle, Hilton and Mayor Webster.  
NAYS: None.

Miss Tommie was then escorted by Lt. Col. Jimmy Brown, Commander of the 917th Air Refueling Squadron, Lt. Col. Earl Hall, and Capt. Bill Beightol to the microphones where she was seated in the Mayor's chair. The 917th Air Refueling Squadron took Miss Tommie for her first airplane ride last year on her 99th birthday. Miss Tommie requested that these men be her escort on her birthday.

Mr. Seegmiller presented Miss Tommie with a medallion proclaiming her Mayor for the Day.

Col. Mack Turlley, Commander of the 96th Bombardment Wing of Dyess Air Force Base, presented Miss Tommie with a flag made by Dolores Beightol. The flag was flown at this month's commander call of the 917th Air Refueling Squadron.

Dr. John Stevens of Abilene Christian University, Paul Jungmeyer of McMurry College and Dr. William O. Beasley of Hardin Simmons University, presented Miss Tommie with a Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree on behalf of the University Consortium of Abilene, Inc. Also, presented to her was a diploma of the degree of Doctor of Humanities, signed by the presidents of the two local universities and college. Dr. Jungmeyer and Dr. Beasley placed the doctoral hood around Dr. Clack's shoulders and placed the academic cap on her head.

Mayor Hall, vacationing in London, called Miss Tommie and talked with her on the telephone in the Council Chambers. The telephone call was recorded as follows:

MISS TOMMIE: Hello, Elbert.

MAYOR HALL: Well, hello, Miss Tommie. Happy Birthday.

MISS TOMMIE: We're having the most unusual things I've ever seen in Abilene here this morning. I have never seen anything like it, and you have run off the other way and I don't know that I appreciate that.

MAYOR HALL: You are certainly a sweet person and deservedly so.

MISS TOMMIE: Thank you so much.

MAYOR HALL: I have found this out--I am in London, and they treat mayors over here a whole lot better than they treat them in Abilene. The Mayor of McKinney wore a massive gold chain about his neck and he was preceded by a crier who went around saying, "Oh, yea, yea, here comes the Mayor". And then once a year I find that the Mayor here gets in a big red coach and goes to see the queen. Now, they don't have anything like that in Abilene, but I plan to work on it.

MISS TOMMIE: You didn't say, "Hello, Queenie", did you?

MAYOR HALL: I just wanted to wish you a happy, happy birthday, and Terry is here and wants to say hello to you and then we will let you go.

MISS TOMMIE: Come back and we will do just all we can for you.

TERRY HALL: Happy birthday, Miss Tommie.

MISS TOMMIE: Thank you, thank you so much, I hope you have as happy of one as I have today when yours comes around.

TERRY HALL: Let me tell you how we are going to celebrate your birthday. We are going to have tea in a few minutes with the Martin Agnews who are Paul's friends.

MISS TOMMIE: Yes, yes.

TERRY HALL: And we were proud that we talked to you on your birthday. Have a wonderful day.

MISS TOMMIE: Thank you, thank you so much. And everyone here sends greetings to you--talking for them. Being Mayor, I can do that.

Mr. Bobby Sayles, a former student, brought greetings on Miss Tommie's birthday from across the nation--from New York, California, Florida, Colorado and all across the State of Texas. He said that the steps that lead her students to sit at her feet, have also taken them into many walks of life--teachers, doctors, merchants, mayors, military careers, housewives, nurses, lawyers, jurists, bankers, butchers, bakers and candlestick makers. He read a few of the personal greetings that some of her former students sent her. Margaret Sears Brown said, "Like everyone else, I adore Miss Tommie." Ben O. Smith, New York, "My heartiest congratulations to Miss Tommie, the best English teacher anyone ever had, and a truly beautiful person." David L. Warren, "I had both of them, Miss Tommie and Miss Bobbie at AHS and consider it a great honor and privilege." Bub McDonald, "I have always admired Miss Bobbie and Miss Tommie even though I did not have the honor of being one of their students." Stainer Dugan, "I recall that the Clack sisters owned a large touring car, black I believe, and they always parked it in the same parking space in front of the high school. We students conjectured that should both of the Clack sisters become ill at one time, that car would automatically start itself and drive itself into the same parking space." Retired Justice Esco Walter, "The Clack sisters learned me all the grammar I know. Congratulations to Miss Tommie on making a 100."

Bobby Sayles went on to share a personal experience that occurred April 1, 1926. He was a freshman in high school and decided to go with the older boys to Elm Creek and play hooky. They all received ten demerits and had to stay a week in Miss Tommie's detention hall. He said she was gentle and kind and helped to rationalize his conduct by saying that those older boys took him off to the creek with them. He read part of a note that was given to him on his graduation from Miss Tommie that stated, "Your sense of humor has saved us many a time, and will carry you over many a rough place in the future, hold on to that." He then presented Miss Tommie with the birth of a new arrival in Abilene. The baby's name is Clack Educational Fund. Parents, hundreds of loving friends, former students and fellow teachers. Time of arrival, April 29, 1982. Baby's weight, \$72,375.84. Baby's length, from here to eternity. The attending physicians, Dr. Elbert Hall, MD., Dr. Harwell Barber, FAGS, and Dr. Bobby Sayles, DVM. Midwives were Katharyn Duff and Winnie Lou Bounds. This fund is to be used to provide scholarships and other education help to worthy young men and women in order that they might be inspired to reach out and touch someone, to keep alive in the minds and hearts of the generations yet to be born, the great values in life that Miss Tommie and Miss Bobbie so richly bestowed upon her former students.

Miss Tommie's response is recorded as follows: "I would be an ingrate if I didn't appreciate all of this. You all that know me, know that there was just one thing that I wanted to do and that was to teach in an Abilene school. I taught in other schools quite a long time, but I always gravitated back to Abilene High School, and I have never been sorry. When

you read that story, Gracchi, these are my jewels, these boys and girls that are sitting in here before me. I could add a little chapter to what you said (Bobby Sayles), that little boy that sat with his head just over the desk, I said why did you go on this fricas that you had, one boy jumped off of a bluff and broke his foot and we had to work and work with him to get him to pass but he passed and is doing well, he is still alive and he sent me word that his child was an honor pupil. Now, he didn't have any honors from that, but I said why did you do it, and he said you know Frances would have done it too if she hadn't been a girl. We were scared to death that they might go down to the train and get hurt as they had.

I am so humble today and so grateful to you, and I think if I could look back over that time whenever Abilene was about 500 years old and I would go down to the store with my father and see what was in the stores, we didn't have what you have now, you have the most marvelous school system and they invited me up there to talk for five minutes and I wondered what I would say in five minutes time. I thought of a little coach in World War I, the finest little man that has ever been in Abilene, I am sorry that I didn't teach him, but I couldn't have taught him anything because he taught me so much. They said speech, speech, speech and he came to the front, and he said I have done my best and I have played the game square. And that is what I think you that are teachers, you that are working with the education department and Council Members, I think that that is the thing that you are doing your best to do. Do your best and play the game square. Keep after it because it is well worthwhile. Abilene holds for me nearly everything that I would want life to hold. My people have nearly all gone but they have come back here today from Oklahoma, Arizona and from Texas. I guess just because they happen to love me, and I am so glad to have them here today, and I am glad to be with you Abilene people for one more day. One Colonel is here that I know, I wish you could have seen him when he was a little boy, and he said what do you want me to get you. I told him to just come. All I want is to say hello and goodbye one time more. You have given me that opportunity, and I do thank you so much. I know I am taking too much of your time, but I loved every one of you and still do, whether I recognize you or not. If I don't recognize you, it is because I don't see quite so well, and if I don't come to see you its because I don't walk quite so well. But I am here, and I will be here until the end of time, I hope. I thank you for today, and I want you, if there is anything good in my life, prolong it, if not prolong the goodness in yours. You have got so much to give. You have this building to teach in, when I had to counsel boys and girls...one time I had to take the window there and just turn their backs to everybody else and talk to the boy. When I talked to him and I told him to always be proud of his family, be proud of his name, he denied his name. I think the greatest thing that you give to your children is the name that you hand to them, and I gave him such a good little lecture, my lectures are usually not very good, but I gave him such a good one that the next day as I passed him on the stairwell, he said How's my girl? That's the way he felt towards me and, of course, that's the way I felt towards him. I taught his father and taught his mother too. I am delighted to see all of you, because friends are jewels, and you are my jewels. May I say one thing more? I am accepting these honors as graciously as I know how for all of you teachers. All of you, all of you counselors, for the people of Abilene, not for myself. And that is the main thing that I came here to tell you."

Mayor Webster introduced the former principal of Abilene High School, Mr. H. S. Swathery and Mrs. H. C. Swathery.

Mayor Webster thanked Katharyn Duff for putting the birthday party together for Miss Tommie and Sandy Test who also did a great deal to help Ms. Duff. Mayor Webster thanked everyone who came and who was able to participate in Miss Tommie's birthday party.

Mayor Webster adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

  
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY

  
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE