



INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Gary D. Greer
City Manager

DATE: February 3, 2015

SUBJECT: Witness to History Award

In 2011, City Council made the Dennis brothers the inaugural recipients of the *Witness to History Award*. The award was created to recognize those long term Farmers Branch residents and organizations that have contributed to the City. To qualify for the award, an individual would have to reside in Farmers Branch for 75 years or more, or an organization would have to be active for 50 years or more.

Mrs. Doris Taylor has lived in Farmers Branch for the past 80 years and is a direct descendant of Isaac Webb, one of the original settlers who moved to Farmers Branch in 1844. The Webb family founded the first Methodist congregation in the area and started the Webb Chapel Cemetery in 1847. Mrs. Taylor is a member of the church that her ancestors founded well over 150 years ago. In addition, Mrs. Taylor attended school at the old Farmers Branch Elementary School that was adjacent to the Farmers Branch (Keenan) Cemetery. With ties to the land going back for quite some time, Mrs. Taylor lived next to City Hall on Bee Street.

Mrs. Taylor's brother used to raise the American flag at the old Fire Station #1 on Valley View Ln. The firefighters gave him an American flag and he was often spotted riding his bicycle around town with the flag proudly displayed on the back of his bike.

In recognition of her strong personal and family ties to Farmers Branch, the Historical Preservation and Restoration Board have voted unanimously to recommend to Council that Mrs. Doris Taylor receive the Witness to History Award.

Possible Council Action:

1. I move to recognize Mrs. Doris Taylor as the recipient of the Witness to History Award.
2. I move recognize Mrs. Doris Taylor as the recipient of the Witness to History Award with modifications.
3. I move to table the item or take no action.