

City of El Paso de Robles
Proclamation
Elizabeth “Betty” Cousins

WHEREAS, Elizabeth “Betty” Cousins a native of Paso Robles born to James and Cicile Cousins on February 12, 1922. Daughter to James a civic leader who founded the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce and was a grain broker and insurance broker, a profession that Betty Cousins would later follow; and

WHEREAS, Betty was a gifted athlete with an adventurous spirit having traveled to Africa on a 90 day safari in 1955 to holding the Women’s Club Championship five times at the Paso Robles Country Club; and.

WHEREAS, Betty received a nursing degree from the University of San Francisco and she worked at the Paso Robles War Memorial Hospital. In 1961, she financed equipment for screening infant deafness, a move that put Paso Robles on the national map as the smallest City in America to have such facilities; and,

WHEREAS, after her nursing career she served on the Board of Directors of War Memorial Hospital until 1978, when the hospital closed and Twin Cities Community Hospital was built in Templeton; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 Betty ran for City Council on the platform of fixing downtown traffic circulation and growth. Betty was the top vote getter in her inaugural run and her fellow council members unanimously voted her mayor pro-tem the following month. During her time as a council member one of her accomplishments was lobbying for and casting the deciding vote on the new Library and City Hall that have revitalized and reshaped downtown Paso Robles into a nationally recognized City of distinction. After one term of office (four years) Betty felt the City was on track and decided not to seek re-election. Later, she was asked and agreed, to fill a short-term Council vacancy; and

WHEREAS, Betty helped to establish the Cuesta College’s North County Campus along with other dedicated Roblans. She was on the Board of Directors of Heritage Oaks Bank, past president and lieutenant district governor of the Quota Club, stock broker, and founding member of A Community Organization Recognizing Needs (A.C.O.R.N.), a dynamic organization that spearheads fund drives for parks and other civic improvements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Duane Picanco, Mayor of the City of El Paso de Robles, speaking on behalf of the entire City Council and the Citizens of Paso Robles hereby honor Elizabeth “Betty” Cousins posthumously for her dedication and life long commitment to the City of Paso Robles.

Duane Picanco, Mayor