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The dedication to City government and the community by the only female mayor of Burleson was recognized with a surprise announcement Aug. 5 at the Burleson City Council meeting. Vera Calvin, mayor of Burleson 1988-1992, is now the namesake for Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, located in front of Burleson City Hall.

The plaza, at the corner of Wilson and Ellison streets, is home to the Burleson Visitors Center, Rail Car #330 and Parlor Car #411.

The City allows municipal property to be named for public officials who have served the citizens of Burleson with distinction and have been out of public office for at least two years.

Mayor Calvin moved to Burleson in 1957 with her husband and two daughters. She earned an associate's degree in nursing in 1974 and a bachelor of science degree in health care administration in 1984. Mayor Calvin worked as a registered nurse at the Fort Worth State School, 1976-1983. She served on city council 1980-1984 and 1987-1992 and was elected as mayor pro tem 1982-1984 and 1987-1988. She was appointed mayor in 1988.

The successes during her tenure on council include the 20/20 Comprehensive plan, purchasing both the Burleson Visitors Center (formerly the interurban building) and the recycling center, the initiation of DARE in the public schools (the city partnered with the school district), and construction of the City's first stand-alone police station.

Calvin did not leave public service after serving in City government. She served as justice of the peace for Johnson County's Precinct 2, 1995-1996. She has also been very active in the Burleson Heritage Foundation (members of the BHF volunteer at the Burleson Visitors Center), Athena Society of Burleson, Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Business Women and First United Methodist Church of Burleson.