

By: A. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 22

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, October 12, 2023, marks the 111th anniversary of
2 Rice University's formal opening ceremonies, an event that is
3 commemorated annually as Rice Day; and

4 WHEREAS, On October 12, 1912, students, faculty, and trustees
5 of the Rice Institute gathered alongside local and state officials
6 and dignitaries from governments and universities around the world
7 to celebrate the establishment of a new institution of higher
8 learning; in his address, President Edgar Odell Lovett announced
9 that Rice would "aspire to university standing of the highest
10 grade," while proposing "to assign no upper limit to its
11 educational endeavor"; and

12 WHEREAS, Since that historic day, Rice has grown tremendously
13 in enrollment and academic stature; in recognition of the changing
14 and broadening scope of its educational mission, its name was
15 changed to William Marsh Rice University on July 1, 1960; today, it
16 is a globally oriented, private institution that boasts an
17 impressive 6-to-1 undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio, and it
18 consistently ranks highly among private universities for best
19 quality of life and best value; it is further recognized as one of
20 the most diverse private universities, with more than a quarter of
21 students classified as minorities and more than 60 countries
22 represented in its undergraduate and graduate student bodies; and

23 WHEREAS, Rice holds membership in the Association of American
24 Universities, an organization consisting of North America's 71

1 leading research universities; its faculty and alumni have made
2 significant contributions in numerous fields, and alumni have
3 notably gone on to win the Pulitzer Prize, the Nobel Prize, and
4 Olympic gold medals, to set records for human spaceflight, to win
5 Oscar, Emmy, and Grammy Awards, and to serve in offices as prominent
6 as lieutenant governor of Texas; they have helped found such Lone
7 Star institutions as Austin City Limits and the Texas Film
8 Commission and have made their mark in countless other areas of
9 endeavor that have enriched our state and nation; and

10 WHEREAS, The achievements of Rice University and its alumni
11 have helped to keep Texas at the forefront of research,
12 scholarship, and innovation, and the observance of Rice Day
13 provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on the long and
14 distinguished history of one of our state's most venerated
15 educational institutions; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
17 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby recognize October 12,
18 2023, as Rice Day and extend sincere best wishes to the university's
19 students, faculty, staff, and alumni as they celebrate the 111th
20 anniversary of Rice's historic opening ceremonies; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for the university as an expression of high regard by the
24 Texas House of Representatives.