

By: Miles

S.R. No. 13

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

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