

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 1078

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Margaret and Jim Perkins, longtime benefactors of  
2 Stephen F. Austin State University, have been honored with the 2023  
3 Texas Higher Education Distinguished Service Award; and

4           WHEREAS, Originally presented in 1977, the Texas Higher  
5 Education Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals and  
6 organizations who have made a profound impact on higher education  
7 in Texas or who have significantly benefited the faculty, staff,  
8 and students of an institution through their leadership, service,  
9 or philanthropy; and

10           WHEREAS, Margaret and Jim Perkins have long been champions  
11 for education, and their efforts over the past several decades have  
12 touched the lives of thousands of students and families across the  
13 state; Mr. Perkins' affiliation with Stephen F. Austin State  
14 University has included two terms on the SFA Board of Regents from  
15 1969 to 1981, during which time he served as chair of the board and  
16 led the establishment of the SFA Foundation; and

17           WHEREAS, In 2007, the College of Education was renamed the  
18 James I. Perkins College of Education, and it has continued to  
19 thrive with the support of the couple; for 13 years, the Perkins  
20 Professional Development Travel Fund has enabled faculty to make  
21 more than 850 national and international trips to present their  
22 research, and Mr. and Mrs. Perkins have also helped promote  
23 excellence at the college through the establishment of the  
24 Hoover-Perkins Professorship and through their funding of seven

1 awards within the Department of Education Studies; every year, the  
2 couple hosts a reception for College of Education faculty to  
3 acknowledge their dedicated service to their students, their  
4 profession, and the university; and

5         WHEREAS, Beyond their extensive support for the College of  
6 Education, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins provided a grant for the JacksTeach  
7 program within the College of Sciences and Mathematics to help  
8 students attain STEM teaching certifications; for two decades, they  
9 have also served as lead partners in the Nacogdoches County Chamber  
10 of Commerce's Nacogdoches Opportunity for Better Learning  
11 Experience program, which awards scholarships to attend SFA to 20  
12 area students each year; and

13         WHEREAS, Few can claim such an admirable record of leadership  
14 and service to a university as Margaret and Jim Perkins, and they  
15 may indeed reflect with pride on their many contributions to SFA;  
16 now, therefore, be it

17         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby congratulate Margaret and Jim Perkins on  
19 receiving the 2023 Texas Higher Education Distinguished Service  
20 Award and extend to them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be  
21 it further

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