

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Paul Bestor Woodruff, professor emeritus at The
2 University of Texas at Austin, has enriched the lives of
3 innumerable people through his outstanding work as a philosopher,
4 educator, translator, and author; and

5 WHEREAS, One of America's foremost interpreters of Plato,
6 Thucydides, Socrates, and other classical thinkers, Dr. Woodruff
7 has illuminated complex societal issues through his scholarship on
8 the ideas surrounding the ancient Greeks' first steps toward
9 democracy; his translations are used as standard references in
10 academia, and he has also reached a broader audience via public
11 television and the pages of the *Washington Post*; moreover, he has
12 added to the prestige of the university as the author of such books
13 as *Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue* and *The Necessity of*
14 *Theater: The Art of Watching and Being Watched*; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodruff joined the UT Austin faculty in 1973,
16 and while rising in his field, he also made an enormous impact on
17 the university in administrative roles; during his tenure as
18 inaugural dean of undergraduate studies, he charted a new path with
19 the introduction of an interdisciplinary core curriculum and
20 improved student support services; as director of the Plan II
21 honors program, he helped deliver an Ivy League-quality education
22 to thousands of young Texans; and

23 WHEREAS, Over the years, Dr. Woodruff further served as chair
24 of the Department of Philosophy, Darrell K. Royal Professor of

1 Ethics and American Society, and Mary Helen Thompson Centennial
2 Professor in the Humanities; he is the recipient of numerous
3 accolades, among them the Harry Ransom Teaching Award, the
4 Civitatis Award recognizing outstanding UT faculty, and Pro Bene
5 Meritis, the highest honor bestowed by the UT College of Liberal
6 Arts; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodruff earned bachelor's degrees from both
8 Princeton and Oxford University before serving as a captain in the
9 U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, an experience that has informed
10 his perspective on moral conflict; he completed his doctorate in
11 philosophy at Princeton University; since his retirement in the
12 fall of 2022, Dr. Woodruff has continued to write and to meet with
13 former students to discuss life and philosophy; and

14 WHEREAS, UT Austin has benefited immeasurably from Paul
15 Woodruff's visionary leadership, and his wisdom, humility, and
16 willingness to engage have inspired generations of students to
17 observe more acutely and think more deeply; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
19 Legislature hereby honor UT Austin professor emeritus Paul Bestor
20 Woodruff for his contributions and extend to him sincere
21 appreciation for his many years of dedicated service; and, be it
22 further

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

Howard

H.R. No. 1724

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1724 was adopted by the House on May 17, 2023, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House