

By: Howard

H.R. No. 1724

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.