

By: Sparks, Alvarado, Perry

S.R. No. 510

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Representatives of The University of Texas Permian
2 Basin are gathering at the State Capitol on May 3, 2023, providing a
3 fitting opportunity to recognize the institution for its 50 years
4 of service; and

5 WHEREAS, Established in Odessa as a branch campus of The
6 University of Texas System in 1973, UTPB was initially an
7 upper-level institution that only accepted junior, senior, and
8 graduate students; its first freshman class, known as the "Pioneer
9 Freshmen," entered the school in 1991; over the years, the
10 university has expanded to include five academic colleges that
11 together offer more than 75 undergraduate and graduate degrees, and
12 it encompasses the main campus in Odessa as well as the Midland
13 Campus; to date, there have been over 28,800 UTPB graduates; and

14 WHEREAS, UTPB has played an instrumental role in the growth
15 and vitality of the Permian Basin region; the university serves as a
16 major source of skilled workers for the area's oil and gas industry,
17 and its liberal arts programs have contributed to the unique
18 culture of local communities; in addition, the university has
19 helped the region tackle critical issues related to the energy
20 industry, education, the environment, and public health; and

21 WHEREAS, To meet the diverse educational needs of its
22 students, UTPB has opened a wide variety of facilities, including
23 its engineering complex and the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center
24 in Midland County and the D. Kirk Edwards Family Human Performance

1 Center in Odessa; the university has also worked to increase access
2 to higher education by partnering with school districts and
3 establishing the Falcon Free program, which covers the cost of
4 tuition and fees for students in need; and

5 WHEREAS, Since its founding 50 years ago, The University of
6 Texas Permian Basin has provided many Texans with a strong
7 foundation for achievement, and it is a pleasure to join in
8 recognizing the institution on this milestone occasion; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature
11 hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of The University of Texas
12 Permian Basin on the occasion of UTPB Day at the State Capitol on
13 May 3, 2023, and extend to all those associated with the institution
14 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for the university as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas Senate.