

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 95

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The dedication of the Jerry D. Morris Recreation
2 Center at Texas A&M University--Commerce celebrates the opening of
3 a magnificent new facility on the university's campus and provides
4 a fitting opportunity to recognize the man whose name the center
5 bears; and

6 WHEREAS, Designed to accommodate a broad spectrum of
7 recreational interests, this state-of-the-art complex will play a
8 significant role in promoting the health and overall well-being of
9 members of the university community; among the many amenities
10 featured are a three-lane indoor jogging track, a pool with lap
11 lanes, a 45-foot climbing wall, and a fitness room with weight and
12 cardiovascular equipment, as well as basketball, racquetball, and
13 volleyball courts; and

14 WHEREAS, Jerry D. Morris, namesake of this fine facility, is
15 president emeritus of Texas A&M University--Commerce; a native of
16 Arkansas and graduate of the University of Arkansas, where he
17 earned three degrees, he came to what was then East Texas State
18 University (ETSU) as director of placement in 1970; he subsequently
19 served as dean of admissions, dean of the graduate school, and vice
20 president for academic affairs before taking the reins as
21 university president and CEO in 1987; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1996, President Morris led a successful drive to
23 bring ETSU within the Texas A&M University System; he retired in
24 1997, after 11 years as president and after nearly 30 years of

1 exceptional dedication to this university; and

2 WHEREAS, President Morris has further given generously of his
3 time and energies to such community and civic groups as the First
4 United Methodist Church, Lions Club, and Commerce Economic
5 Development Corporation; highly esteemed by both town and gown, he
6 has been honored by the City of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the
7 chamber of commerce, and the Northeast Texas Southeast Oklahoma
8 Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America; and

9 WHEREAS, Texas A&M University--Commerce has gained
10 immeasurably from the incisive leadership, deep experience, and
11 passionate commitment to education that Dr. Morris brought to the
12 office of president, and this new recreation center stands as a fine
13 tribute to his outstanding leadership; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
15 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the dedication
16 of the Jerry D. Morris Recreation Center at Texas A&M
17 University--Commerce and extend to President Morris sincere
18 appreciation for his exemplary service; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for President Morris as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.