

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 279

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Leonard E. Lawrence of San Antonio truly merits
2 special recognition for his distinguished service as chairman of
3 the board of the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) from September 1995 to
4 February 2004; and

5 WHEREAS, Appointed to the board in 1992 by Governor Ann
6 Richards, Dr. Lawrence was unanimously elected chairman by his
7 fellow board members three years later; in 1997, he was reappointed
8 as board chairman by Governor George W. Bush; and

9 WHEREAS, The TYC board is responsible for the management,
10 integrity, and representation of the agency, and board members set
11 policy and expectations both for the youth who are detained and for
12 the employees who work at the facilities; under the inspired
13 leadership of Dr. Lawrence, the agency has made great strides
14 toward achieving the delicate balance between holding young people
15 accountable for their crimes and ensuring that they receive the
16 appropriate rehabilitative care; in 1999, the TYC was awarded the
17 Governor's Texas Star Award as the outstanding mid-size state
18 agency, and in 2003, the TYC was honored once again for excellence
19 by a team that reviewed the management practices of all state
20 agencies; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Lawrence is a professor of psychiatry,
22 pediatrics, and family and community medicine and the associate
23 dean for student affairs at The University of Texas Health Science
24 Center Medical School at San Antonio; he sets an exceptionally high

1 standard for public service with his participation on the boards of
2 numerous organizations; in addition to his 12-year tenure with the
3 TYC board, Dr. Lawrence has served as president of the National
4 Medical Association and the C. A. Whittier Medical Society; and

5 WHEREAS, He has also served on the Council of Children,
6 Adolescents and their Families of the American Psychiatric
7 Association, of which he is a Distinguished Life Fellow, the
8 National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse, the board of trustees of
9 St. Mary's University, the board of trustees of the Baptist Health
10 System Foundation, and many other worthy organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Lawrence can indeed look with tremendous pride
12 on his notable accomplishments as TYC board chairman, and it is a
13 pleasure to recognize his exemplary service to that agency as well
14 as his continuing dedication to the organizations that benefit from
15 his tireless efforts and leadership; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
17 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby honor Dr. Leonard E.
18 Lawrence on the occasion of his retirement as chairman of the board
19 of the Texas Youth Commission and extend to him deep appreciation
20 for his exemplary public service; and, be it further

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