

By: Ritter

H.R. No. 319

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Sheila Beckett, executive director of the Employees
2 Retirement System of Texas (ERS), is retiring June 30, 2004, after
3 30 years of outstanding service to the State of Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, Appointed to her present position in 1996, Ms.
5 Beckett oversees programs that provide retirement, health
6 insurance, deferred compensation, and flexible benefits for more
7 than 200,000 current state employees and retirees; under her
8 direction, ERS manages the Texas Employees Group Benefits Program,
9 which provides health care coverage to more than 500,000 state
10 employees and retirees, together with their families; the agency is
11 further entrusted with an investment portfolio whose market value
12 stands at approximately \$20 billion; and

13 WHEREAS, In recognition of the exceptional leadership that
14 Ms. Beckett has provided at the helm of ERS, she has been named
15 Agency Administrator of the Year by the Texas Public Employees
16 Association and Professional Administrator of the Year by the
17 Central Texas Chapter of the American Society for Public
18 Administration; for her commitment to ensuring that ERS
19 accomplishes its mission of efficiently delivering high-quality
20 benefits, the American Society for Public Administration and the
21 National Academy of Public Administration have conferred on her the
22 prestigious National Public Service Award; and

23 WHEREAS, A highly regarded state government and budget
24 expert, Ms. Beckett served Governor Bill Clements as the director

1 of the Office of Budget and Planning and Lieutenant Governor Bob
2 Bullock as budget director; she also served the lieutenant governor
3 as senior advisor on issues concerning employee benefits; and

4 WHEREAS, This distinguished Texan began her career in state
5 government in the 1970s as a research assistant to a special state
6 committee formed by Governor Dolph Briscoe to study public employee
7 benefits; she later worked in the Texas House of Representatives
8 and served as a budget examiner for the Legislative Budget Board;
9 she has managed the spending analysis section in the office of the
10 comptroller of public accounts and served as a special assistant to
11 the director of the Texas Legislative Council; and

12 WHEREAS, A graduate of Texas A&M University, where she
13 received a bachelor's degree in political science, Ms. Beckett went
14 on to earn a master of public affairs degree from the Lyndon B.
15 Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at
16 Austin; and

17 WHEREAS, After stepping down from her post at ERS, Ms.
18 Beckett will be moving to Belgrade, Serbia, where she will join the
19 staff of the U.S. Treasury Department and serve as resident budget
20 advisor to the Serbian minister of finance and economy; and

21 WHEREAS, For three decades, Sheila Beckett has given
22 unstintingly of her talents and expertise in behalf of the people of
23 Texas, and her unwavering commitment to this state and its citizens
24 represents the very best in government service; now, therefore, be
25 it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
27 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby honor Sheila Beckett on the

1 occasion of her retirement as executive director of the Employees
2 Retirement System of Texas and extend to her profound gratitude for
3 her immeasurable contributions to ERS and the people of the Lone
4 Star State; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Ms. Beckett as an expression of high regard by the
7 Texas House of Representatives.