

By: Hegar

H.R. No. 409

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2006 marks the 130th anniversary of the
2 founding of Prairie View A&M University, and that auspicious
3 occasion was celebrated at a special gathering in Houston on April
4 29 entitled "Celebrating the View at 130 Years"; and

5 WHEREAS, The second-oldest public institution for higher
6 learning in Texas, the college was established on August 14, 1876,
7 by an act of the Texas Legislature; originally known as Alta Vista
8 Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth, the
9 school subsequently had a variety of names, including Prairie View
10 State Normal School, Prairie View State Normal & Industrial
11 College, and Prairie View University, before receiving its current
12 designation in 1973; while the names may have changed, its mission
13 has remained the same, and in its 13 decades of service, the college
14 has granted 46,000 degrees, preparing a multitude of students for a
15 broad range of rewarding careers; and

16 WHEREAS, The university has long been known for producing
17 top-notch engineers, nurses, and educators, and its Reserve Officer
18 Training Corps has a sterling reputation for developing talented
19 military leaders; nearly 1,800 commissioned officers and nine
20 flag-rank officers have attended Prairie View A&M, and the
21 education they received at the university no doubt made them more
22 capable soldiers who have contributed greatly to the defense of the
23 nation; and

24 WHEREAS, Musicians, too, have found the Prairie View campus

1 fertile ground for their creativity, with one of the college's
2 best-known graduates being rhythm-and-blues pioneer Charles Mose
3 Brown; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, this highly acclaimed institution has an
5 enrollment of more than 6,000 students who are pursuing degrees in
6 39 different majors; of these, 2,000 are involved in graduate
7 studies, where they can specialize in any of 31 master's degree
8 programs and four doctoral programs; and

9 WHEREAS, Having been born in the tumultuous era of post-Civil
10 War Reconstruction as Texas' first state-supported college for
11 African Americans, Prairie View A&M can reflect proudly on that
12 heritage even as it embraces its current duty of educating students
13 of all races and backgrounds, and its success in these past and
14 present endeavors makes it a proud contributor to educational
15 excellence in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
17 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor Prairie View A&M
18 University on the 130th anniversary of its founding and extend
19 sincere best wishes to its educators, students, and alumni; and, be
20 it further

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