

By: Coleman

H.R. No. 542

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is pleased to
2 recognize February 28th, 2005, as Prairie View A&M University and
3 Alumni Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Prairie View A&M University originated in the Texas
5 Constitution of 1876 when legislators, after the establishment of
6 the Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas, pledged in the
7 Texas Constitution of 1876 that "separate schools shall be provided
8 for white and colored children, and impartial provisions shall be
9 made for both." On August 14, 1876, the Texas Legislature
10 established the "Alta Vista Agricultural and Mechanical College of
11 Texas for Colored Youths"; and

12 WHEREAS, The University was established as a Land Grant
13 College under the federal Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890 and began
14 its tradition of agricultural research and community service, which
15 continues today; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1945, the name of the institution was changed
17 from Prairie View Normal and Industrial College to Prairie View
18 University, and the school was authorized to offer, "as need
19 arises," all courses offered at the University of Texas.

20 WHEREAS, In 1947, the Texas Legislature changed the name to
21 Prairie View A&M College of Texas and provided that "courses be
22 offered in agriculture, the mechanic arts, engineering, and the
23 natural sciences connected therewith, together with any other
24 course authorized at Prairie View at the time of passage of this

1 act, all of which shall be equivalent to those offered at the
2 Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas at Bryan."; and

3 WHEREAS, On August 27, 1973, the name of the institution was
4 changed to Prairie View A&M University, and its status as an
5 independent unit of the Texas A&M University System was
6 reconfirmed; and

7 WHEREAS, On November 6, 1984 the voters of Texas approved a
8 constitutional amendment which restructured the Permanent
9 University Fund to include Prairie View A&M University and also
10 designated the University as an "institution of the first-class"
11 under the governing board of the Texas A&M University System; and

12 WHEREAS, In January 1985, the Board of Regents of the Texas
13 A&M University System responded to the 1984 Constitutional
14 Amendment by stating its intention that Prairie View A&M University
15 become "an institution nationally recognized in its areas of
16 education and research." and resolved that the University receive
17 its share of the Available University Fundamentals as previously
18 agreed to by Texas A&M university and the University of Texas at
19 Austin; and

20 WHEREAS, Prairie View A&M University, because of Texas'
21 history of racial discrimination, has had a special role in
22 educating African Americans, many of whom have established
23 themselves as professionals in the fields of business, education,
24 engineering, medicine and nursing, providing services not only to
25 the citizens of Texas but also to those of the nation and the world;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, the University, its alumni, faculty, staff and

1 student body have victoriously weathered the period of legal
2 segregation, and continues its noble struggle to overcome vestiges
3 of the former de jure racially dual system of public higher
4 education in Texas; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
6 Legislature hereby express appreciation to Prairie View A&M
7 University and Alumni for its many contributions to the State of
8 Texas and best wishes to all who are participating in Prairie View
9 University and Alumni Day at the Capitol; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for the
11 University as an expression of esteem from the Texas House of
12 Representatives.