

By: Wong

H.R. No. 813

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, David Gockley is stepping down as general director
2 of Houston Grand Opera, ending a remarkable tenure that began in
3 1972 when he was 27 years old and has resulted in the development of
4 one of the nation's premiere opera companies; this occasion offers
5 a truly fitting opportunity to sing the praises of this talented
6 visionary; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Gockley joined the staff of HGO in 1970 as
8 business manager; two years later, he accepted the post of general
9 director and began the challenging, but rewarding, task of
10 elevating HGO from a relatively unknown regional opera company to
11 one of the country's most prestigious and progressive companies;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Gockley came to Houston after pursuing vocal
14 studies at the renowned New England Conservatory; he studied
15 conducting and composition at Brown University, and went on to earn
16 a master's degree from Columbia University Business School, which
17 presented him with the first Dean's Award for Distinguished
18 Professional Achievement; he has since received an honorary
19 doctorate of humane letters from the University of Houston and an
20 honorary doctorate of fine arts from Brown University, as well as
21 Brown University's William Rogers Award for professional
22 achievement and extraordinary service to humanity; and

23 WHEREAS, Since he assumed its directorship, HGO has become
24 the nation's leading commissioner and producer of new works,

1 staging 30 world premieres and six American premieres; the company
2 has garnered numerous accolades during his tenure, including a Tony
3 Award, two Emmy Awards, and two Grammy Awards, and radio broadcasts
4 of HGO performances are heard by more than five million listeners
5 each year; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Gockley has dedicated himself to broadening the
7 market for opera in the greater Houston area, leading him to launch
8 the Community Connections Initiative and to develop an array of
9 innovations, such as OperaVision and the Multimedia Modular Stage;
10 he is also the co-founder of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, a
11 training program that has fostered the careers of several renowned
12 and beloved opera stars; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to accepting the myriad challenges that
14 come with the directorship, Mr. Gockley has found time to serve as
15 president of OPERA America and as chairman of Houston's Theater
16 District; he was also instrumental in the 1987 opening of the
17 Wortham Theater Center, the \$72 million state-of-the-art
18 performing arts center that is home to Houston Grand Opera; and

19 WHEREAS, By combining his love of music, his keen business
20 acumen, and his infectious enthusiasm, David Gockley has created a
21 legacy of achievement of which he can be proud, and we wish him well
22 in his new role as general director of San Francisco Opera; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
25 Legislature hereby commend David Gockley for his distinguished
26 tenure as general director of Houston Grand Opera and extend to him
27 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Mr. Gockley as an expression of high regard by the
3 Texas House of Representatives.