

By: Wong

H.R. No. 861

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston, a
2 longtime leader in dental health education and research and in the
3 provision of dental services to the residents of Southeast Texas,
4 is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, The first dental school to be established in the
6 state, the Dental Branch was founded as Texas Dental College by a
7 group of dentists, physicians, and businessmen on February 11,
8 1905; the school remained a proprietary institution until 1943,
9 when it became The University of Texas School of Dentistry; renamed
10 The University of Texas Dental Branch in 1958, it became a part of
11 The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in 1972;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Providing the full spectrum of dental education, the
14 Dental Branch offers a doctor of dental surgery program, two
15 graduate primary care programs, six graduate specialty programs,
16 and a dental hygiene program; students enrolled in graduate dental
17 programs may also enroll jointly in an M.S. or Ph.D. program offered
18 by The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences;
19 in addition, the Dental Branch offers three combined-degree
20 programs: doctor of dental surgery/doctor of philosophy, doctor of
21 dental surgery/master of public health, and doctor of medicine/oral
22 and maxillofacial surgery; and

23 WHEREAS, Over the entire course of its history, the school
24 has trained approximately 5,600 dentists, and, since 1943, a total

1 of nearly 9,000 dental professionals; in 2004, the Dental Branch
2 also provided continuing education to almost 3,000 practicing
3 dentists; and

4 WHEREAS, Individuals affiliated with the Dental Branch
5 continue to undertake important new research, and in fiscal year
6 2004, they secured almost \$2.8 million in research grants; the
7 Dental Branch also boasts the largest comprehensive research
8 training grant ever received by a component of the health science
9 center from the National Institutes of Health; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition, the Dental Branch operates an in-house
11 clinic, as well as offering treatment at outreach facilities and
12 associated hospitals; in 2004, the Dental Branch recorded more than
13 90,000 patient visits and provided, at no charge or at a discounted
14 rate, dental care valued at some \$1.2 million; and

15 WHEREAS, The University of Texas Dental Branch, located in
16 the world-renowned Texas Medical Center, contributes immeasurably
17 to the health of Texas citizens and to the advancement of dental
18 science, and it commits itself to changing the landscape of oral
19 health in the years to come through excellence in education,
20 discovery, and community service; as alumni, faculty, staff, and
21 friends of the Dental Branch celebrate its centennial, it is indeed
22 a pleasure to join in commemorating this momentous milestone in the
23 school's distinguished history; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
25 Legislature hereby honor The University of Texas Dental Branch at
26 Houston on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and extend to all
27 those associated with the school sincere best wishes for continued

1 success.