

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, After 24 years of exemplary service, the longtime
2 leader of Saint Joseph Health System, Sister Gretchen Kunz of
3 Bryan, is transitioning from her position as president and chief
4 executive officer to assist the system's charitable organization,
5 the St. Joseph Foundation; and

6 WHEREAS, A Franciscan nun who holds degrees in nursing,
7 education, and educational and hospital administration, Sister
8 Gretchen was appointed hospital administrator by the Sisters of St.
9 Francis in 1981; prior to moving to Bryan, she served as director of
10 nurses at Providence Hospital in Sandusky, Ohio, for 10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, After she arrived at Saint Joseph, she worked to
12 establish close relationships with civic, school, and business
13 leaders as well as physicians to ensure that the needs of the
14 community were being met; her farsighted leadership was a driving
15 force in establishing the hospital's cardiac and cancer treatment
16 facilities and in expanding its rehabilitation and surgical
17 services, maternal-child care, and emergency services; during her
18 tenure, the facility's staff has grown from 300 to more than 2,000
19 employees, and small hospitals in Caldwell, Navasota, and
20 Madisonville as well as eight rural clinics have joined the system;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, In addition to her service to Saint Joseph, Sister
23 Gretchen helped to found a number of important community
24 organizations, including the Prenatal Clinic, the Health for All

1 Clinic, Project Unity, and the local Habitat for Humanity; she has
2 also served on the boards of the United Way of the Brazos Valley and
3 the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, which recently named
4 her the Citizen of the Year; and

5 WHEREAS, Sister Gretchen's impressive skill as an
6 administrator and passionate commitment to the needs of the people
7 of the Bryan-College Station area are truly outstanding, and her
8 strength, warmth, and humanity will long continue to inspire all
9 who know or know of her; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
11 Legislature hereby honor Sister Gretchen Kunz as she transitions
12 from her position as president and chief executive officer of Saint
13 Joseph Health System and extend to her sincere best wishes for the
14 future; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Sister Gretchen as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.

Brown of Brazos

H.R. No. 1568

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1568 was adopted by the House on May 20, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House