

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 282

In Memory  
of  
Dr. Frank Everson Vandiver

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas joins citizens across the state in mourning the loss of Dr. Frank Everson Vandiver, noted historian and Texas A&M University president emeritus, who died January 7, 2005, at the age of 79; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Vandiver served as the 19th president of Texas A&M University from 1981 to 1988; he led the university through a period of unparalleled expansion in academic achievements and status; during his tenure, the university's research budget surpassed \$100 million, the endowment increased to more than \$1 billion, and the university achieved Land Grant, Sea Grant, and Space Grant designation; and

**WHEREAS**, Under his leadership, the university furthered its status as a world-class institution; it hired its first Nobel Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner faculty members and became ranked in the Top Ten nationally in the number of National Merit Scholars; more members of the faculty became affiliated with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering than at any previous time; and

**WHEREAS**, An Austin native, Frank Vandiver earned degrees in history from The University of Texas, Tulane University, and Oxford University; he became an Air Force historian, taught at Washington University and Oxford University, and was a visiting professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point; and

**WHEREAS**, Before joining Texas A&M University, he was president and chancellor of North Texas State University for two years and had been a professor of history for 24 years at Rice University, where he had also served as department chairman, provost and vice president, and acting president; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Vandiver was an expert on military history, with a special interest in the Civil War, and he wrote and edited more than 20 books and more than 100 scholarly articles and reviews on military conflicts; his book, *Black Jack: The Life and Times of John J. Pershing*, was a finalist for a National Book Award; and

**WHEREAS**, A visionary and an outstanding administrator, educator, and author, Dr. Vandiver will long be remembered for his leadership, his scholarship, and his quick wit; he was a devoted husband and father, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

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**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby honor and commemorate the life of Dr. Frank Everson Vandiver and extend sincere condolences to his bereaved family: his wife of 24 years, Renée Aubry Vandiver; his daughters, Nita W. Jackson and Nancy A. Wahl; and his son, Frank A. Vandiver; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Frank E. Vandiver.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 1, 2005, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate