

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 146

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Alvin O. Austin is retiring as president of  
2 LeTourneau University after 21 years in that demanding leadership  
3 role, and this occasion offers a fitting opportunity to commend him  
4 for his myriad contributions to the success of this noteworthy  
5 institution of higher learning; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Austin was introduced as president of LeTourneau  
7 University in 1986 and is just the fifth president in the school's  
8 60-year history; he began his career in Christian higher education  
9 in 1970, when he was named vice president of student affairs at  
10 Hardin-Simmons University, and he has long played an active role in  
11 promoting the importance of faith in the field of education; and

12           WHEREAS, Numerous educational organizations have benefited  
13 from Dr. Austin's visionary leadership, including the Council for  
14 Christian Colleges and Universities, the Council of Presidents of  
15 the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, Independent  
16 Colleges and Universities of Texas, Inc., and the Southern  
17 Association of Colleges and Schools; and

18           WHEREAS, In leading LeTourneau University into the 21st  
19 century, Dr. Austin has overseen unprecedented growth in  
20 enrollment, from 753 students to nearly 4,000, as well as the  
21 expansion of the school's degree offerings; the school earned  
22 university status in 1989 and added its first graduate-level  
23 programs that same year; and

24           WHEREAS, During Dr. Austin's impressive tenure, LeTourneau

1 University has consistently ranked as one of *U.S. News and World*  
2 *Report's* top American colleges; moreover, the university has  
3 extended its reach with the addition of educational centers in  
4 Dallas, Bedford, Tyler, Houston, and Austin, while also investing  
5 nearly \$60 million in new construction and renovations for the  
6 Longview campus; and

7 WHEREAS, A former chairman and member of the Good Shepherd  
8 Medical Center's board of directors, Dr. Austin has also served as  
9 president of the Longview Chamber of Commerce; he helped form the  
10 Longview Partnership and currently serves on the board of directors  
11 of the Educational Radio Foundation of East Texas for Encouragement  
12 FM, the operator of two Christian radio stations in East Texas; and

13 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Dr. Austin is blessed with the  
14 love and support of his wife, Samantha, and the couple's three  
15 children and six grandchildren; his hard work and dedication as  
16 president of LeTourneau University have resulted in a bright and  
17 promising future for the school, and his legacy of achievement will  
18 not soon be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
20 hereby commend Dr. Alvin O. Austin on his outstanding career as  
21 president of LeTourneau University and extend to him best wishes  
22 for continued happiness in his retirement; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for Dr. Austin as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
25 House of Representatives and Senate.