

By: Swinford

H.R. No. 899

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Since the early 20th century, extension service  
2 agents have helped to improve the lives of countless Texans and  
3 contributed immeasurably to the development of the Lone Star State;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Extension work in Texas dates back to 1903, when Dr.  
6 Seaman A. Knapp, a U.S. Department of Agriculture special agent for  
7 the promotion of agriculture in the South, conducted a  
8 demonstration project at the Walter C. Porter farm in Kaufman  
9 County; the success of the project quickly led to the launching of  
10 myriad other demonstration farms, as well as to the establishment  
11 of the first program in the country whereby an agricultural agent  
12 would serve a single county; that program was initiated with the  
13 hiring of William C. Stallings in Smith County in 1906; and

14           WHEREAS, To encourage an interest in improved agricultural  
15 and domestic science techniques, boys' and girls' clubs, the  
16 forerunners of 4-H, were also established; and

17           WHEREAS, In 1914 the U.S. Congress passed the Smith-Lever  
18 Act, a measure requiring each state to set up a cooperative  
19 extension service that would be funded jointly by federal, state,  
20 and local governments; based at the land-grant universities, these  
21 outreach programs were intended to foster agricultural development  
22 and improve the lives of rural Americans by providing practical  
23 information and training based on university research; and

24           WHEREAS, Texas, which by that time had a burgeoning extension

1 program, created extension services at Texas A&M University and at  
2 Prairie View A&M University; now known respectively as Texas  
3 Cooperative Extension and the Cooperative Extension Program, these  
4 services are both administered under the auspices of The Texas A&M  
5 University System; and

6 WHEREAS, Today, county extension agents and extension  
7 specialists develop a wide array of educational and technology  
8 training programs in response to the needs of their local  
9 communities, both rural and urban, in all 254 counties of the state;  
10 program areas include agriculture and natural resources, 4-H and  
11 youth development, family and consumer sciences, and community  
12 resources and economic development; and

13 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to the historic mission of  
14 cooperative extension, staff members of the Texas extension system  
15 continue to promote lifelong learning for the purposes of  
16 self-improvement, individual action, and community  
17 problem-solving, and they are indeed deserving of commendation for  
18 their outstanding public service; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby honor the personnel of Texas Cooperative  
21 Extension and the Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program  
22 for their substantial contributions to enhancing individual  
23 quality of life, strengthening local communities, and furthering  
24 the economic prosperity of this state.