

By: Callegari

H.R. No. 1038

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Respected and accomplished Katy Independent School
2 District superintendent Dr. Leonard Merrell is retiring from his
3 post on June 30, 2007, after 12 years of exceptional service to that
4 district; and

5 WHEREAS, Chosen as Katy superintendent in 1995, Dr. Merrell
6 has ably guided one of the fastest-growing school districts in the
7 state; during his tenure, the student population of Katy has
8 doubled, rising from 25,000 to more than 50,000, and to serve them
9 the district has opened 20 new campuses, four performing arts
10 centers, and three ninth-grade complexes; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to directing that expansion, Dr. Merrell
12 has overseen the completion of a comprehensive curriculum revision
13 process and the implementation of an online management system for
14 administrators and teachers; the strength of the district during
15 his watch is reflected in the "recognized" rating that Katy ISD has
16 earned from the state for nine of the past 10 years; and

17 WHEREAS, In recognition of Dr. Merrell's outstanding
18 leadership, the Katy ISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously in
19 2005 to name its new multipurpose center in his honor; and

20 WHEREAS, Before taking the helm of Katy ISD, Dr. Merrell
21 served as superintendent of the Texas City ISD and Sulphur Springs
22 ISD; altogether, he has led school districts for 22 of the 39 years
23 he has dedicated to the field of education; and

24 WHEREAS, Throughout Dr. Merrell's illustrious career,

1 numerous organizations have taken note of his achievements; named
2 the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2003 and
3 the American Association of School Administrators Texas
4 Superintendent of the Year for 1997-1998, he was also designated a
5 finalist for the Texas Computer Education Association
6 Superintendent of the Year award in 2005; moreover, Dr. Merrell has
7 served as president of the Texas Association of School
8 Administrators; and

9 WHEREAS, Committed to creating an educational environment in
10 which each student has a respected place and is taught to the best
11 of his or her abilities, Dr. Leonard Merrell has made contributions
12 to the Katy ISD that will benefit the community and its students for
13 many years to come; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commend Dr. Leonard Merrell on the occasion of
16 his retirement as superintendent of the Katy Independent School
17 District and extend to him sincere best wishes for happiness and
18 fulfillment in the years ahead; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Dr. Merrell as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.