

By: Smithee

H.R. No. 2062

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Long, who led West Texas A&M University
2 through 11 transformative years as university president, assumed
3 the title of president emeritus in January 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, Appointed interim president of West Texas A&M in
5 August 1994, Dr. Long was named the ninth president of the
6 university in April 1995 by a unanimous vote of the Texas A&M
7 University System Board of Regents; and

8 WHEREAS, During his tenure at the helm of the university, Dr.
9 Long guided the school through a significant period of academic,
10 physical, and financial expansion; he provided leadership for the
11 development of 11 new master's degree programs and seven new
12 bachelor's degree programs, introduced the university's first
13 doctoral program, and played an instrumental role in the
14 establishment of the Honors Program and distance education program;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Long's presidency was also marked by an increase
17 in the overall enrollment by 10 percent, to nearly 7,300 students,
18 and by a 50 percent increase in Hispanic and African American
19 enrollment; WOnline, which served 322 students during its first
20 full year, in 1997-1998, provided instruction to nearly 11,800
21 students in 2004-2005; and

22 WHEREAS, To meet the needs of a growing student body, Dr. Long
23 oversaw physical improvements to the campus totaling \$92 million,
24 including the construction of a \$30 million fine arts complex, and

1 he succeeded in more than doubling the endowment; at the same time,
2 research funding increased by 1,325 percent and financial aid to
3 students rose by almost 130 percent; in addition, the university
4 created more than 400 collaborative arrangements with private and
5 public partners; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Van Horn, Dr. Long received his bachelor's
7 degree from Sul Ross State University in 1965, a master's degree
8 from New Mexico State University in 1967, and a doctorate from Texas
9 A&M University in 1977; and

10 WHEREAS, Before becoming provost and vice president for
11 academic affairs at WTAMU in 1992, he taught English literature at
12 Schreiner College and at Tarleton State University, where he also
13 served as assistant vice president for academic affairs and chaired
14 the Department of English and Languages; and

15 WHEREAS, Held in the highest regard by his colleagues, Dr.
16 Long has served as a commissioner for the Southern Association of
17 Colleges and Schools, as vice president of the Council of Public
18 University Presidents and Chancellors, and as president of the
19 Association of Texas Colleges and Universities; and

20 WHEREAS, He has given generously of his time and talents to
21 the community at large through service on the boards of the
22 Harrington Regional Medical Center, the Harrington Cancer Center,
23 the Coffee Memorial Blood Center, A.C.E. (Achievement through
24 Commitment to Education), and the Amarillo-Canyon United Way, as
25 well as the Panhandle Heritage Foundation, the Panhandle Regional
26 Planning Commission, and the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce; and

27 WHEREAS, In recognition of his professional achievements,

1 Dr. Long has been named a Distinguished Alumnus of Sul Ross and a
2 Tarleton State University Distinguished Professor; he was also
3 chosen as the Silver Anniversary Outstanding Graduate in English by
4 the Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout his years as president of West Texas A&M
6 University, Dr. Long brought to his office incisive leadership, a
7 passionate commitment to the mission of higher education, and a
8 determination to serve the needs of the surrounding region, and it
9 is a privilege to pay tribute to such a dedicated and visionary
10 public servant; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Russell Long on his designation
13 as president emeritus of West Texas A&M University and extend to him
14 sincere best wishes for continued fulfillment in the years ahead;
15 and, be it further

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