

By: Watson

S.C.R. No. 84

1 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas is pleased to
3 recognize Dr. Phil Hatlen on the occasion of his retirement as
4 superintendent of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually
5 Impaired on July 31, 2007, after 17 years of loyal service; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Phil Hatlen joined the Texas School for the
7 Blind and Visually Impaired in 1990 with an extensive background as
8 an educator, administrator, and consultant; and

9 WHEREAS, He has advanced a progressive agenda for educating
10 young people who are blind and visually impaired that includes
11 teaching essential social and daily living skills so the students
12 might succeed not only in school but in society as well; and

13 WHEREAS, Early in his career, he discovered that blind and
14 visually impaired children were being taught complex academic
15 subjects, but some were unable to complete the tasks of daily
16 living, such as tying their shoes; he developed an agenda at the
17 school that integrated individualized instruction, parental
18 involvement, and societal inclusion; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Hatlen encouraged educators and leaders at
20 schools for the blind and visually impaired to redefine their
21 institutions as multiservice agencies that provide for the best
22 interests of their students, and he emphasized that those interests
23 are best served by qualified teachers and an effective partnership
24 between parents and educators; and

1 WHEREAS, Because of Phil Hatlen's leadership, the Texas
2 School for the Blind and Visually Impaired has become one of the
3 most prominent schools for the blind and visually impaired in the
4 country, and its reputation has drawn visitors from around the
5 world; and

6 WHEREAS, He has been an exceptional leader who has had a
7 positive influence on the lives of countless students and teachers,
8 and his presence at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually
9 Impaired will be greatly missed; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby commend Dr. Phil Hatlen for his dedicated service and his
12 many contributions to the Texas School for the Blind and Visually
13 Impaired; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for him
15 as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.