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H.C.R. No. 168

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, George W. Bush was the first Texas governor to
2 become president of the United States, and as he takes up residence
3 once again in the Lone Star State, it is indeed a pleasure to
4 welcome him home; and

5 WHEREAS, The eldest child of former president George Herbert
6 Walker Bush and former first lady Barbara Bush, George W. Bush was
7 born in New Haven, Connecticut, on July 6, 1946; he grew up in
8 Midland and Houston and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in
9 history from Yale University and a master of business
10 administration degree from the Harvard School of Business; after
11 returning to Midland to enter the energy industry, he met Laura
12 Welch, who became his wife on November 5, 1977; three years later,
13 the couple were blessed with twin daughters, Jenna and Barbara; and

14 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan continued his career in energy
15 until his father's successful 1988 presidential campaign, on which
16 he served as a senior advisor, and he later assembled a group of
17 investors to purchase the Texas Rangers baseball franchise; in
18 1994, he began his own career in public service with his election as
19 governor; during his six years in office, he fostered an atmosphere
20 of bipartisanship and gained a reputation as a compassionate
21 conservative who based public policy on a philosophy of limited
22 government, personal responsibility, local control, and strong
23 families; and

24 WHEREAS, Having earned nationwide attention, the popular

1 governor of Texas was urged to run for higher office, and on January
2 20, 2001, he became the 43rd president of the United States, making
3 history as the first son of a former president to win the White
4 House since John Quincy Adams; President Bush was tested less than
5 nine months after his inauguration by the terrible events of
6 September 11, 2001, and the swiftness and determination of his
7 response would define his presidency; and

8 WHEREAS, In his address to the nation that night, President
9 Bush condemned the acts of terror and uplifted the American people
10 with assurances of safety and justice; he subsequently proclaimed
11 September 14, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, and
12 on that day he stood amid rescue workers in the rubble of the World
13 Trade Center and again offered words of comfort to the grieving
14 nation; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout the remainder of his first term and
16 continuing through his second, President Bush made national
17 security his highest priority; he created the Department of
18 Homeland Security and transformed the military, the intelligence
19 community, and the FBI; and

20 WHEREAS, The Bush administration met numerous foreign policy
21 challenges, while also making constructive progress in relations
22 with India and sustaining a solid relationship with China;
23 President Bush persuaded Libya to abandon its advanced missile
24 programs, leading to normalized relations; in Africa, he vastly
25 increased development assistance, and he has won high praise for
26 his support of global initiatives to combat AIDS, malaria, and
27 tuberculosis; and

1 WHEREAS, By pushing through a prescription drug benefit,
2 President Bush helped millions of older Americans, and today more
3 than 25 million people are enrolled in Medicare drug plans
4 administered by private insurers; in addition, he expanded access
5 to health care by doubling direct federal financing for community
6 health centers; he also worked with Congress to enact the No Child
7 Left Behind Act, an ambitious template for educational reform; and

8 WHEREAS, For the past eight years, President George W. Bush
9 lived each day with the safety and prosperity of his fellow citizens
10 foremost in his mind; he took a principled stance on a wide range of
11 issues of great importance to every American, and his tireless
12 efforts will not soon be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby welcome former president George W. Bush back to the Lone Star
15 State and extend to him sincere appreciation for his service to our
16 state and nation; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for former president Bush as an expression of high regard
19 by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.