

By: Smithee

H.C.R. No. 210

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Amarillo College lost an ardent champion with the
2 passing of A.C. president Dr. Steven W. Jones on February 22, 2009,
3 at the age of 56; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on September 28,
5 1952, Dr. Jones worked as an industrial economist before turning
6 his energies toward higher education; he held a bachelor's degree
7 in business, an M.B.A. in management and economics, and a doctorate
8 in higher education administration; he was also a graduate of the
9 Harvard University Institute for Educational Management and the
10 Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Jones moved to Amarillo from Phillips Community
12 College of the University of Arkansas, where he had served as
13 chancellor since 1996; he was named president of Amarillo College
14 on October 15, 2003, and over the ensuing years he charted an
15 ambitious new course for this West Texas school; and

16 WHEREAS, One of his first undertakings was the development of
17 a long-range plan that focused on technology upgrades; he
18 subsequently scored a major triumph with the passage in 2007 of a
19 \$68 million bond issue, by far the largest in school history;
20 revenue from the bonds is slated to fund the renovation of existing
21 classroom facilities and the construction of two new buildings, one
22 to house math and science programs and the other a nursing and
23 dental health center, which is being named in his honor; and

24 WHEREAS, During his tenure, Dr. Jones worked to more closely

1 align the school's technical programs with the needs of the
2 community, so that local industry, business, and government would
3 have a ready, well-qualified workforce and students could train in
4 fields offering long-term employment prospects and high wages;
5 innovative offerings drew new students and helped push the school's
6 academic enrollment to more than 10,000; Dr. Jones also succeeded
7 in increasing federal funding for the college by more than 35
8 percent; and

9 WHEREAS, A productive scholar, he published three books and
10 dozens of articles in professional journals; moreover, numerous
11 colleges, universities, and community college systems sought his
12 expertise and counsel; earlier in his career, he served as vice
13 chair of the American Association of Community Colleges Board of
14 Directors, as a member of the board of the Ford Foundation Rural
15 Community College Initiative, as a member of the President's
16 Advisory Board of the Association of Community College Trustees,
17 and as an adviser to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for its community
18 college program; and

19 WHEREAS, In Amarillo, this esteemed gentleman chaired the
20 boards of a regional medical center, a rural health care
21 foundation, and the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, and served as a
22 board member of the Harrington Regional Medical Center, Amarillo
23 Museum of Art, United Way of Amarillo & Canyon, Amarillo Symphony,
24 and Salvation Army; he was a Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary
25 International, as well as a Gideon and a deacon in the Baptist
26 Church; and

27 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Dr. Jones enjoyed the love and

1 support of his wife, Tommye Lou Jones, and two daughters, Holly and
2 Jennifer; and

3 WHEREAS, Amarillo College has gained immeasurably from the
4 leadership, experience, and unwavering commitment that Dr. Steven
5 Jones brought to his post as president, and the legacy of his
6 achievements will continue to enrich the citizens of the Panhandle
7 for years to come; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Steven W. Jones and extend
10 sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of 33
11 years, Tommye Lou Jones; to his daughters, Holly Rhea Jones and
12 Jennifer Ashley Jones; to his mother, Bobbie Jones; and to his other
13 relatives and friends; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
17 Dr. Steven W. Jones.