

By: Heflin

H.R. No. 55

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Wayland Baptist University in Plainview is marking
2 the 100th anniversary of its founding during the 2008-2009 school
3 year, and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to pay
4 tribute to this respected place of learning; and

5 WHEREAS, The university takes its name from Dr. James H.
6 Wayland, a Plainview physician who, at the turn of the 20th century,
7 realized the need for a Christian-based institution of higher
8 education in the Texas Panhandle region; Dr. Wayland and his wife,
9 Sarah, donated \$10,000 and 25 acres of land to help make this vision
10 a reality, and they received vital support from the churches of the
11 Staked Plains Baptist Association; through these combined efforts,
12 the college was chartered in 1908 as the Wayland Literary and
13 Technical Institute; the first classes convened in 1910, and that
14 same year, the institution changed its name to Wayland Baptist
15 College; and

16 WHEREAS, Building on a strong foundation of religious faith,
17 Wayland has prepared generations of students for professional
18 success, lifelong learning, and meaningful service to others; the
19 college has stayed true to this mission while adapting to an
20 ever-changing world, and its notable legacy of innovation and
21 progressive action has been evident through the decades; and

22 WHEREAS, Wayland Baptist University was a pioneer in regard
23 to racial integration and has also played a leading role in
24 educating young people from other countries; moreover, the famed

1 Flying Queens women's basketball team helped open new doors for
2 female athletes, and its enduring success has been a proud part of
3 the school's rich sports heritage; and

4 WHEREAS, Well known for its ability to prepare individuals
5 for a life of servant leadership, Wayland has furthered that goal by
6 urging its students to take an active role in community service;
7 outreach efforts have included music performances and ministerial
8 work in Texas and beyond as well as disaster recovery projects and
9 summer missionary trips to Russia, Kenya, Germany, and other
10 international locations; and

11 WHEREAS, Wayland has also taken its services to the wider
12 world by opening a number of external campuses; today, there are 13
13 such facilities in operation, serving cities in Texas, Oklahoma,
14 Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Kenya; in addition, the
15 university operates a "virtual campus" through its online courses
16 that have an enrollment of some 2,500 students; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the course of an eventful century, Wayland
18 Baptist University has provided its students with an education that
19 is abounding in academic challenges and spiritual enrichment, and
20 the institution's positive influence will continue to be felt in
21 the years ahead; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
23 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the
24 founding of Wayland Baptist University and extend best wishes to
25 its students, alumni, educators, and staff as they observe the
26 school's centennial year.