

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 423

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, An outstanding Texas educator, Dr. Lanier Byrd,  
2 reached an important milestone in his life with his retirement from  
3 St. Philip's College in San Antonio on May 11, 2007, after 35 years  
4 of service to that historic institution; and

5           WHEREAS, A 1966 graduate of St. Philip's, Dr. Byrd received a  
6 bachelor's degree and a master's degree in biology/chemistry from  
7 Prairie View A&M University in 1969 and 1973, respectively, and  
8 earned a Ph.D. in science education from The University of Texas at  
9 Austin in 1995; and

10           WHEREAS, After beginning his career at Sidney Lanier High  
11 School in San Antonio, where he taught biology and physics and  
12 coached the girls' volleyball team from 1969 to 1972, Dr. Byrd  
13 joined the faculty of St. Philip's College as a biology instructor;  
14 granted tenure in 1978 and promoted to professor in 1984, he  
15 provided strong guidance to the Department of Natural Sciences  
16 during a highly successful stint as departmental chair; and

17           WHEREAS, From 1996 to 2007, Dr. Byrd served the college as  
18 vice president of academic affairs; challenged to meet the demands  
19 of a rapidly growing enrollment, he helped the college earn one of  
20 the highest site review ratings ever accorded a community college  
21 by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, with 28 of the  
22 school's technical programs being rated as "exemplary" and three of  
23 the arts and sciences programs identified as "outstanding"; and

24           WHEREAS, The capstone of Dr. Byrd's many contributions to the

1 college was his creation of the Lanier Byrd Endowed Scholarship,  
2 which is designed to help lower-income students receive an  
3 education at St. Philip's; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Lanier Byrd's energy, dedication, and  
5 commitment to excellence greatly benefited the students, faculty,  
6 and staff of St. Philip's College, and he may indeed reflect with  
7 pride on a career well spent; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
9 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Lanier Byrd on his retirement  
10 from St. Philip's College and extend to him sincere best wishes for  
11 continued fulfillment; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for Dr. Byrd as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
14 House of Representatives.