

By: Zerwas

H.R. No. 1562

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A number of proud Texans are visiting Austin on
2 April 27, 2009, to celebrate Prairie View A&M University Day at the
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Prairie View is the second-oldest public
5 institution of higher education in Texas and the first in the state
6 to be founded for African Americans; and

7 WHEREAS, Established in 1876, Prairie View opened its doors
8 in Waller County on March 11, 1878, as Alta Vista Agricultural
9 College, part of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas;
10 the following year the school became Prairie View State Normal
11 Institute, with a focus on training African American teachers; in
12 1887, the legislature authorized the creation of an agricultural
13 and mechanical department and an experiment station at Prairie
14 View, and in 1890 the school became a land-grant institution; the
15 school assumed its present name in 1973, when it became a separate
16 unit within The Texas A&M University System; and

17 WHEREAS, In recognition of the school's notable history and
18 mission, the Texas Legislature defined a special charge for Prairie
19 View in 1981, calling on it, firstly, to enable students of diverse
20 ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds to realize their full
21 potential, and secondly, to assist small and medium-sized
22 communities and businesses in their development; and

23 WHEREAS, Today, Prairie View enrolls more than 8,000 students
24 from throughout the country and around the world; composed of nine

1 schools and colleges, it also offers instruction at satellite
2 campuses in The Woodlands, Spring, and the Texas Medical Center,
3 where its College of Nursing is located; and

4 WHEREAS, Prairie View currently awards some 1,500 degrees
5 annually, approximately half of them distributed among 50
6 baccalaureate academic majors and the other half among 37 master's
7 and four doctoral degree programs; the school is one of the
8 top-ranking institutions across the nation in the number of degrees
9 it confers on African Americans in the fields of computer science,
10 math, and engineering, and it is also a leader in the number of
11 black graduates admitted to medical school; in addition, it has
12 benefited countless citizens through various extension programs,
13 which it has offered since 1915; and

14 WHEREAS, Since 2003, Prairie View has been guided by
15 President George C. Wright, a distinguished historian who formerly
16 served as executive vice president for academic affairs and as
17 provost at The University of Texas at Arlington; joining President
18 Wright in the chamber today are members of the rising generation of
19 Texas leaders, representatives of the Prairie View A&M University
20 Student Government Association; and

21 WHEREAS, For 130 years, Prairie View A&M University has
22 enriched the lives of thousands of students, contributed to the
23 advancement of human knowledge, and proved a powerful force for
24 social progress and economic development in the Lone Star State;
25 now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
27 Legislature hereby recognize April 27, 2009, as Prairie View A&M

H.R. No. 1562

1 University Day at the State Capitol and honor this venerable
2 institution for its outstanding dedication to academic excellence
3 and significant public service; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Prairie View A&M University as an expression of high
6 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.