

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 2909

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Bob E. Riley is retiring as president of East
2 Texas Baptist University on July 16, 2009, concluding a
3 distinguished 17-year career with this fine institution; and

4 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Riley's skilled leadership, enrollment at
5 ETBU has reached a record level and the endowment has increased
6 significantly; Dr. Riley organized the university into seven
7 schools, each under the direction of its own dean, and oversaw the
8 completion of more than \$25 million in capital projects, including
9 construction of new buildings and extensive renovations of existing
10 facilities; technology has been expanded, the athletics program
11 moved from NCAA Division II to Division III, and the number of
12 athletic teams more than tripled; he also encouraged the
13 development of the Student Leadership Institute and Great
14 Commission Center, expanded the choral program, and instituted the
15 marching band; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley was born in Wheeler in 1943; he earned his
17 bachelor's degree and his master's degree in education from West
18 Texas State University and served his country in the United States
19 Navy; after beginning his career in public school systems in Tulia,
20 Canyon, and Claude, he went on to earn his doctorate in education
21 from East Texas State University, which has named him a
22 distinguished alumnus, and he pursued postdoctoral studies at Texas
23 Tech University; he worked as an assistant professor at Sul Ross
24 State University, as dean of instruction at Clarendon College, and

1 as an assistant professor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University
2 before joining Howard College in Big Spring as vice president for
3 academic affairs in 1983; the following year, he became president
4 of Howard; and

5 WHEREAS, The 11th president of ETBU, Dr. Riley was elected to
6 the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics council of
7 presidents and was appointed to the executive council of the
8 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and
9 Schools; and

10 WHEREAS, This noteworthy leader also served the wider
11 community as a member of the board of the Marshall Chamber of
12 Commerce and as president of the Marshall Rotary Club; he and his
13 wife, Gayle, are the proud parents of three daughters, Lisa, Leigh,
14 and Melinda, and he serves as a deacon of First Baptist Church; and

15 WHEREAS, Named president emeritus by the ETBU board of
16 trustees, Dr. Riley is highly regarded for his vision and
17 commitment to excellence, and he can indeed take great pride in his
18 legacy of achievement; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
20 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Bob E. Riley on his retirement
21 as president of East Texas Baptist University and extend to him
22 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Dr. Riley as an expression of high regard by the Texas
25 House of Representatives.