

By: Seliger

S.C.R. No. 2

1                                   SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Governor T. M. Campbell signed a bill on March 31,  
3 1909, for the establishment of a normal college west of the 100th  
4 meridian; and

5           WHEREAS, Canyon was selected as the location for the new  
6 normal college on September 3, 1909, and a 40-acre tract was trimmed  
7 from the T-Anchor Ranch on November 4, 1909, as the site for the  
8 college; and

9           WHEREAS, Ground was broken on February 17, 1910, for the  
10 college's first building, and West Texas State Normal College  
11 opened on September 20, 1910, with an enrollment of 232 students;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, On March 25, 1914, Old Main, the college's main  
14 facility, burned to the ground, and President R. B. Cousins  
15 declared, "If West Texas is nothing more than brick and mortar, it  
16 ought to die"; and

17           WHEREAS, On March 26, 1914, classes at West Texas Normal  
18 College were conducted in church buildings, the courthouse, and  
19 vacant businesses across the city of Canyon; and

20           WHEREAS, West Texas Normal College has been known as West  
21 Texas State Teachers College (1923-1949), West Texas State College  
22 (1949-1963), West Texas State University (1963-1990), and West  
23 Texas A&M University (1990 to present); and

24           WHEREAS, West Texas A&M University students have brought

1 recognition to the university and the State of Texas with eight  
2 consecutive team triumphs at the National Reining Horse Association  
3 National Championship, Students in Free Enterprise advancing to the  
4 national level of competition for 13 consecutive years, and  
5 students in broadcasting winning the regional crown for the 11th  
6 consecutive year at the National Broadcasting Society Region 4  
7 Convention and the 11th consecutive Model Chapter of the Year award  
8 at the National NBS Student Electronic Media Competition; and

9       WHEREAS, The school's symphonic band has appeared 12 times at  
10 the Texas Music Educators Association annual convention, making it  
11 the only university band in the state of Texas to make a record  
12 number of appearances at the annual event; and

13       WHEREAS, West Texas A&M University's student athletes have  
14 competed successfully in National Collegiate Athletic Association  
15 sports, in which the Lady Buff volleyball team has won three  
16 national championships, the football team is 4-0 in bowl games and  
17 has won four Lone Star Conference championships, and the Buff and  
18 Lady Buff basketball teams are on track to defend their 2007 Lone  
19 Star Conference titles; and

20       WHEREAS, West Texas A&M University has been instrumental in  
21 the region's economic, social, and cultural development over the  
22 past 100 years, with 50 percent of the working professionals living  
23 in the Texas Panhandle having earned their degrees from West Texas  
24 A&M University; and

25       WHEREAS, West Texas A&M University has provided educational  
26 opportunities for more than 100,000 individuals over the past 100  
27 years and has more than 35,000 alumni working and living in the

1 state of Texas; and

2           WHEREAS, West Texas A&M University has a full roster of  
3 graduates who have taken leadership roles here in the state of Texas  
4 and across the country including State Representative John Smithee,  
5 First Lady of Texas Anita Perry, former AT&T Wireless chief  
6 executive officer Stan Sigman, Mercury Morris of the Miami  
7 Dolphins, former player and head coach of the Philadelphia 76ers  
8 Maurice Cheeks and Microsoft general manager for premier and  
9 alliance support Joe Austin; now, therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 hereby commemorate the centennial of the establishment of West  
12 Texas A&M University and commend the school's administrators,  
13 faculty, staff, and students on their valuable contributions to the  
14 State of Texas; and, be it further

15           RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in honor  
16 of this special occasion.