

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 554

WHEREAS, The president and medical director of the Texas Heart Institute in Houston, Dr. James T. Willerson, has made an enduring contribution to the Lone Star State through his significant achievements in the field of medicine; and

WHEREAS, A native of Lampasas, James Willerson went on to graduate from The University of Texas at Austin and Baylor College of Medicine; he was an intern, a resident, and a research and clinical fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and a clinical associate at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland; after returning to his home state, Dr. Willerson joined The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas as a professor of medicine and director of the cardiology division, and from 1989 through 2000, he was the chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston; he has also served as chief of medical services at Memorial Hermann Hospital and as president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his current roles as president and medical director, Dr. Willerson is the director of cardiovascular research and codirector of the Cullen Cardiovascular Research Laboratories at the Texas Heart Institute, and he is an adjunct professor at Baylor College of Medicine and at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center; moreover, he has established the Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases and TexGen Research, and he is the founder of two biotechnology companies, Encysive and Volcano; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willerson has dedicated himself to his field by participating in a number of organizations, including the Association of Professors of Medicine and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies; he is a former chair of the Cardiovascular and Renal Study Section of the National Institutes of Health, and he has served on various boards and committees of the American Heart Association; he has also been elected a fellow in the Royal Society of Medicine of the United Kingdom, and he was named an honorary member of the cardiology societies of Peru, Spain, Greece, Venezuela, and Chile; and

WHEREAS, Renowned for his expertise, Dr. Willerson has served as a visiting professor and invited lecturer at more than 220 institutions worldwide, and he has edited or coedited 24 textbooks, including the third edition of *Cardiovascular Medicine*; he has published approximately 850 scientific articles, and he has been active on the editorial boards for several professional publications, including *The New England Journal of Medicine* and *American Journal of Cardiology*; he was also the longest-serving editor of *Circulation*, the journal of the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, Recognized numerous times throughout his exemplary career, Dr. Willerson has received the Distinguished Scientist Award from the American College of Cardiology, the Medal of Merit from the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cardiovascular Research Foundation, and the Living Legend Award from the World Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons; for his work with the American Heart Association, he was given the Award of Merit, the Distinguished Achievement and Distinguished Scientist awards, and the organization's highest accolade, the Gold Heart Award; he was also named a Distinguished Alumnus of Baylor College of Medicine and UT Austin and an "Outstanding Teacher" at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and at UT Medical School at Houston; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of his fellow citizens, and he may indeed reflect with great pride on the positive impact he has had on the lives of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby honor Dr. James T. Willerson on his notable accomplishments, commend him for his work to improve the health of people throughout the world, and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Dr. Willerson as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Huffman

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 1, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate