

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 277

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert M. Gates is retiring as the United States
2 secretary of defense on June 30, 2011, drawing to a close an
3 extraordinary 45-year career in which he has served eight U.S.
4 presidents; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Kansas, Robert Gates earned a bachelor's
6 degree from the College of William and Mary, a master's degree in
7 history from Indiana University, and a doctorate in Russian and
8 Soviet history from Georgetown University; and

9 WHEREAS, Secretary Gates joined the Central Intelligence
10 Agency in 1966, and during the course of his outstanding 27-year
11 tenure with the organization, he spent nearly a decade in the White
12 House as a member of the National Security Council, serving four
13 presidents; and

14 WHEREAS, Named deputy director of the CIA in 1986, Secretary
15 Gates served in that role until early 1989, when he was appointed
16 assistant to the president and deputy national security adviser in
17 the administration of President George H. W. Bush; when he returned
18 to the CIA in 1991 as its director, he became the only career
19 officer in its history to rise from entry-level employee to agency
20 head; and

21 WHEREAS, Beginning a new chapter in his career, Secretary
22 Gates was appointed interim dean of the George Bush School of
23 Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University in 1999, and
24 in 2002, he accepted the position of university president; he

1 further contributed his expertise as a board member of the American
2 Council on Education and the National Association of State
3 Universities and Land-Grant Colleges; and

4 WHEREAS, Among the other organizations with which Secretary
5 Gates has been deeply involved are the National Eagle Scout
6 Association and the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of
7 America, both of which he served as president; in addition, he has
8 been chair of the Independent Trustees of the Fidelity Funds and a
9 board member of NACCO Industries, Brinker International, and Parker
10 Drilling Company; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2006, Dr. Gates was selected to be the 22nd U.S.
12 secretary of defense by President George W. Bush, and he was sworn
13 in on December 18 of that year; after the 2008 election of President
14 Barack Obama, Secretary Gates became the only secretary of defense
15 in history to be asked to remain in that office by an incoming
16 president; and

17 WHEREAS, Recognized on many occasions, Dr. Gates is the
18 recipient of the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens
19 Medal, and two National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medals;
20 moreover, he has earned the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the
21 CIA's highest award, three times; and

22 WHEREAS, Throughout his years of service to the nation,
23 Secretary Gates has distinguished himself with his intelligence,
24 integrity, and patriotism, winning the lasting trust and respect of
25 men and women in uniform, politicians of both parties, and the
26 general public, and he may indeed take pride in his tremendous
27 contributions to the safety and security of his fellow Americans;

1 now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
3 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Dr. Robert M.
4 Gates on his retirement as U.S. secretary of defense and extend to
5 him sincere best wishes for continued success in all his endeavors;
6 and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for Secretary Gates as an expression of high regard by the
9 Texas House of Representatives.