

By: Pena

H.R. No. 222

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert S. Nelsen, the president of The
2 University of Texas-Pan American, is an outstanding educator and
3 administrator, and he is most deserving of special recognition for
4 his many notable accomplishments; and

5 WHEREAS, Raised on a cattle ranch in Montana, Robert Nelsen
6 was the first person in his family to attend college; in order to
7 pay his tuition, he held a variety of jobs and at one point worked
8 overnight as a janitor while attending classes during the day and
9 holding down another job at a sporting goods store; even then, he
10 was forced by financial difficulties to leave school for a year, but
11 his wife, Jody, helped convince him to return to his studies; he
12 went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in political science
13 from Brigham Young University and received his doctorate from the
14 Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, studying
15 with Nobel Laureate Saul Bellow and specializing in modern
16 literature, modern philosophy, and modern political theory; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Nelsen is fluent in Spanish and has published
18 his fiction in numerous literary journals; a Texas resident since
19 1990, he was a professor at The University of Texas at Dallas, where
20 he initiated the school's creative writing program and nurtured the
21 development of an arts and humanities curriculum; in addition, he
22 won the Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teaching Award in 2005,
23 served five terms as head of the faculty senate, and held the
24 position of vice provost; he then accepted a position as the

1 associate vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M
2 University-Corpus Christi, where he also served as a professor of
3 English; and

4 WHEREAS, This respected scholar was appointed the eighth
5 president of The University of Texas-Pan American on January 1,
6 2010; with an academic philosophy devoted to transparency and
7 shared governance, he has laid out his goals for the university in
8 the coming years, focusing on advanced manufacturing and
9 engineering, bilingual education, border issues, entrepreneurship,
10 and research into health care disparities; and

11 WHEREAS, With his proven leadership ability and extensive
12 experience, Dr. Robert Nelsen is uniquely qualified to build on the
13 record of academic achievement established by The University of
14 Texas-Pan American and to further its enduring commitment to
15 excellence; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
17 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Robert S. Nelsen, president of The
18 University of Texas-Pan American, for his contributions to higher
19 education in the Lone Star State and extend to him sincere best
20 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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