

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 276

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Lanier Byrd of San Antonio, an esteemed educator
2 and friend to many, passed away on August 29, 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, A 1966 graduate of St. Philip's College, Lanier Byrd
4 went on to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees in
5 biology/chemistry from Prairie View A&M University; he began his
6 career in 1969 at Sidney Lanier High School in San Antonio, where he
7 taught biology and physics and coached the girls' volleyball team;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Byrd joined the faculty of St. Philip's College
10 in the early 1970s as a biology instructor; he was granted tenure
11 and promoted to the role of professor, and he provided strong
12 guidance to the Department of Natural Sciences during his tenure as
13 chair of the department; he continued to pursue his own education as
14 well, and in 1995 he obtained a doctoral degree in science education
15 from The University of Texas at Austin; and

16 WHEREAS, From 1996 to 2007, Dr. Byrd served St. Philip's as
17 vice president of academic affairs; challenged to meet the demands
18 of a rapidly growing enrollment, he helped the college earn one of
19 the highest site review ratings ever accorded a community college
20 by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, with 28 of the
21 school's technical programs being rated as "exemplary" and three of
22 the arts and sciences programs identified as "outstanding"; the
23 capstone of his many contributions to St. Philip's was his creation
24 of the Lanier Byrd Endowed Scholarship, which helps lower-income

1 students receive an education; and

2 WHEREAS, Greatly admired for his energy and dedication both
3 inside and outside of the classroom, Lanier Byrd made a positive
4 difference in the lives of countless people, and he has left behind
5 a legacy that will continue to resonate for many years to come; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Lanier Byrd and
9 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
10 Dr. Deborah Byrd; to his children, Shanna, Sean, and Sharanay; and
11 to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Lanier
15 Byrd.