

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A number of proud Texans are visiting Austin on
2 March 3, 2011, to celebrate Rice University Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded in 1912 as William Marsh Rice Institute for
5 the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art, Rice was the first
6 private, nonsectarian university in Texas and the first institution
7 of higher education in Houston; its first president, Edgar Odell
8 Lovett, outlined an ambitious vision for a great research
9 university, and the school's faculty, students, and alumni have
10 succeeded in fulfilling his dream of excellence; and

11 WHEREAS, Rice University has played a leading role in
12 research in such fields as nanotechnology, cellular technology,
13 bioinformatics, energy, the environment, and health, and it has
14 helped shape the course of human space exploration; two
15 distinguished alumni, Rice Board of Trustees chairman George
16 R. Brown and former United States representative Albert Thomas,
17 worked with then vice president Lyndon Johnson to make Houston the
18 home of the Manned Spacecraft Center, now the Johnson Space Center;
19 in 1963, Rice became the first university in the nation to create a
20 dedicated space science department, and it has received research
21 grants from NASA to launch a total of six Earth-orbiting
22 satellites, which were named after the school mascot, Sammy the
23 Owl; and

24 WHEREAS, President John F. Kennedy made his famous address

1 announcing the race to the moon at Rice University, and the very
2 first lunar landing incorporated a scientific experiment built by
3 Rice professor John Freeman; the Rice University flag raised on the
4 surface of the moon remains there to this day; moreover, 14
5 astronauts have had "the Rice Stuff," among them the first female
6 commander of the International Space Station; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1985, the groundbreaking discovery of
8 buckminsterfullerene, or "buckyballs," on the Rice campus,
9 originated the field of fullerene chemistry and helped launch the
10 field of nanotechnology; Rice professors Richard Smalley and Robert
11 Curl earned the Nobel Prize in chemistry for their work, which is
12 now leading to momentous breakthroughs in medicine,
13 transportation, energy, the environment, defense, and many other
14 endeavors; Rice University also counts among its noteworthy
15 innovators Sidney Burrus, interim dean of the George R. Brown
16 School of Engineering, who created signal-processing algorithms
17 that have led to technological advances essential to cell phones,
18 speech recognition, sonar and radar, sensor arrays, digital audio
19 and video, seismic data gathering, biomedical systems, and many
20 more digital tools and devices; and

21 WHEREAS, The longest-serving lieutenant governor in Texas
22 history, William P. Hobby, Jr., was a Rice graduate; his fellow
23 alumni include such notables as Pulitzer Prize-winning author Larry
24 McMurtry, Saint Arnold Brewing Company founders Brock Wagner and
25 Kevin Bartol, and three key *Texas Monthly* magazine staff members,
26 founding editor Bill Broyles, Jr., longtime editor Gregory Curtis,
27 and political analyst Paul Burka; and

1 WHEREAS, Making its mark in the sports world as well, Rice
2 University once owned Yankee Stadium, donated by a successful
3 alumnus in 1962; John Heisman, the namesake of football's coveted
4 trophy, coached the Rice Owls in the 1920s; more recently, the 2003
5 Owls baseball team made Rice the smallest university to win the NCAA
6 Division I College World Series; and

7 WHEREAS, Rice University is admired today as one of the
8 nation's leading institutions of higher education; since *U.S. News*
9 & *World Report* began ranking universities in 1983, Rice has been
10 rated among the top 20 every year; in addition, it is one of only
11 three research universities in the Lone Star State to be a member of
12 the elite Association of American Universities; and

13 WHEREAS, For the past century, Rice University has
14 contributed to the advancement of human knowledge, and the
15 achievements of its faculty and alumni continue to resonate in
16 Texas, the nation, and the world; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
18 Legislature hereby recognize March 3, 2011, as Rice University Day
19 at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to all those from
20 this august institution who are visiting here today; and, be it
21 further

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

S. Davis of Harris
Hochberg

H.R. No. 595

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 595 was adopted by the House on March 3, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House