

By: S. Davis of Harris

H.R. No. 595

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.