

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 65

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The students, faculty, and alumni of Brazosport  
2 College bade farewell to an esteemed educator and administrator in  
3 December 2012, when Dr. John Ray retired from that institution  
4 after more than 40 years of service; and

5           WHEREAS, Dr. Ray earned bachelor's and master's degrees in  
6 biology from Stephen F. Austin State University, and in the fall of  
7 1972, he began his notable tenure at Brazosport College as a biology  
8 professor; he went on to serve as division chair of mathematics and  
9 science from 1981 until 1987, when he received his doctoral degree  
10 in educational administration from the University of Houston; after  
11 briefly chairing the Long Range Planning Committee, he was tapped  
12 to serve as vice president of the college in 1988; he further shared  
13 his expertise with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board,  
14 for which he was chair of the Developmental Education Task Force and  
15 the Texas Academic Success Program Committee; and

16           WHEREAS, In his role as dean of industry and community  
17 resources, a post he held from 1996 until his retirement, Dr. Ray  
18 coordinated noncredit programs, research, and grant development,  
19 and he had responsibility for the college's planning and  
20 institutional effectiveness activities as well as its Small  
21 Business Development Center and information technology;  
22 additionally, he led the data team for the Achieving the Dream  
23 initiative, a campus-wide effort to eliminate achievement  
24 disparities by reaching out to first-year students; and

1           WHEREAS, Active in the Lake Jackson community, he has served  
2 on the board of the Brazosport Area Chamber of Commerce for several  
3 years; he is the current president of the Stilwell Retirement  
4 Residence and previously served as a member of the Salvation Army  
5 board and as president of Lake Jackson Emergency Medical Service;  
6 he is also a faithful congregant at First United Methodist Church of  
7 Lake Jackson, where he taught Sunday school for over 30 years; and

8           WHEREAS, Blessed with a fine family, Dr. Ray enjoys traveling  
9 the world with his wife, Jane, his son, Jake, and his sister-in-law,  
10 Jill Burkindine, and he counts bird-watching among his favorite  
11 pursuits; and

12           WHEREAS, Dr. John Ray's visionary leadership and dedication  
13 have contributed to a host of positive developments at Brazosport  
14 College, and he leaves behind a record of distinguished service  
15 that continues to resonate around the campus and throughout the  
16 community; now, therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
18 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby congratulate Dr. John Ray  
19 on his retirement as dean of industry and community resources at  
20 Brazosport College and extend to him sincere best wishes for the  
21 future; and, be it further

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