

By: Raney

H.R. No. 111

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. R. Bowen Loftin is stepping down as president of  
2 Texas A&M University on January 13, 2014, and returning to the  
3 classroom; and

4 WHEREAS, During his tenure, Dr. Loftin has made involvement  
5 with students a priority, and he has distinguished himself  
6 throughout a period of research advancement and record enrollment  
7 growth; he provided skillful guidance in a number of major changes,  
8 including membership in the Southeastern Conference for  
9 intercollegiate athletics, and he has overseen the merger with the  
10 Texas A&M Health Science Center and the acquisition of a law school;  
11 he has created a strong working relationship with A&M students,  
12 always putting them first, engaging with them through social media,  
13 and agreeing to meet with any student on request; he is a familiar  
14 presence on campus, where his trademark bow tie has begun to set a  
15 new standard of attire; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Loftin was appointed president in February 2010,  
17 following eight months as interim president; previously, he served  
18 for four years as a system vice president and as chief executive  
19 officer of Texas A&M University at Galveston, and he was a professor  
20 of maritime systems engineering as well; he joined the A&M system  
21 from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, where he was a  
22 professor of computer science and of electrical and computer  
23 engineering; in addition, he was the director of the Virginia  
24 Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center; earlier in his career,

1 he was employed by the University of Houston as professor and chair  
2 of the Department of Computer Science and director of the NASA  
3 Virtual Environments Research Institute; and

4 WHEREAS, A prominent expert in his field, Dr. Loftin is  
5 frequently called upon as a consultant by both industry and  
6 government in the areas of homeland security, advanced training  
7 technologies, scientific and engineering data visualization, and  
8 modeling and simulation; he is the author or coauthor of more than  
9 100 technical publications, and he serves on numerous governmental  
10 and academic advisory committees and panels; and

11 WHEREAS, This esteemed educator is a member of the Aggie  
12 Class of '71 and a graduate of the physics program at A&M, and he  
13 holds master's and doctoral degrees in physics from Rice  
14 University; through the years, he has received myriad accolades,  
15 among them two Excellence in Teaching and Service awards from the  
16 University of Houston-Downtown and an American Association of  
17 Artificial Intelligence Award for an innovative application of  
18 artificial intelligence; moreover, NASA honored him with its 1995  
19 Invention of the Year Award, Public Service Medal, and Space Act  
20 Award; and

21 WHEREAS, Dedicated to teaching and research, Dr. Loftin will  
22 continue to serve A&M as a tenured professor in the Department of  
23 Industrial and Systems Engineering; plans are also under way for  
24 his establishment of an institute at the university focusing on  
25 advanced simulation in human behavioral modeling; and

26 WHEREAS, Bowen Loftin has immeasurably benefited Texas A&M  
27 University through his able leadership and steadfast commitment to

1 Aggie core values, and as he embarks on the next exciting phase of  
2 his noteworthy career, he may indeed reflect with pride on his  
3 accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
5 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commend Dr. R. Bowen Loftin  
6 for his service as president of Texas A&M University and extend to  
7 him sincere best wishes for continued success in his endeavors;  
8 and, be it further

9         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for Dr. Loftin as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
11 House of Representatives.