

By: Ritter

H.R. No. 419

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is pleased to
2 recognize Dr. James M. Simmons, who retired on January 31, 2013, as
3 president of Lamar University after 42 years of exceptional
4 service; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Simmons began his career at Lamar University in
6 1970 as a member of the music faculty; he held numerous positions of
7 importance with the university before his 1999 appointment as
8 president, including director of bands, music department chair, and
9 dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication; and

10 WHEREAS, Under his leadership, the university has nearly
11 doubled its enrollment and has launched an impressive capital
12 campaign that has raised more than \$100 million; numerous campus
13 buildings have undergone renovation, and he played an important
14 role in making the university a leader in the field of online
15 education; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Simmons was instrumental in the return of
17 football to the university after a 21-year absence and in the
18 addition of women's soccer and softball; with the return of
19 football came the renewal of the marching band, which under his
20 direction in the 1970s was known as the Grandest Band in the Land;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, An exemplary educator and administrator, he is
23 respected and admired by colleagues, faculty, and students alike,
24 and his presence as president of Lamar University will be greatly

1 missed; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
3 Legislature hereby commend Dr. James M. Simmons on his outstanding
4 stewardship of Lamar University and extend to him best wishes for
5 continued success in all his endeavors; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for Dr. Simmons as an expression of high regard by the
8 Texas House of Representatives.