

By: King of Parker

H.R. No. 524

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Cook is celebrating his 25th anniversary as
2 president of Dallas Baptist University on April 6, 2013; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Cook earned his bachelor's degree from Baylor
4 University, his master's degree in divinity from Southern Baptist
5 Theological Seminary, his master's degree in aging studies from the
6 University of North Texas, and his doctor of ministry degree from
7 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and

8 WHEREAS, This innovative scholastic leader assumed the
9 presidency of DBU in April of 1988, and during his tenure at the
10 helm of the university, he has presided over a significant period of
11 academic, physical, and financial expansion; he provided guidance
12 for the development of 22 new master's degree programs, introduced
13 2 doctoral programs, and played an instrumental role in the
14 establishment of the first honors track for undergraduates; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the course of Dr. Cook's presidency, DBU has
16 experienced a growth in enrollment of 200 percent, to more than
17 5,600 students, and to meet the needs of this burgeoning student
18 body, Dr. Cook has overseen the acquisition of 92 acres of land, a
19 46 percent increase in campus holdings; and

20 WHEREAS, He has given generously of his time and talents to
21 the community at large through service on the boards of the Baylor
22 University Medical Center, the Baylor College of Dentistry, the
23 Baylor Oral Health Foundation, Habitat for Humanity International,
24 United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and the YMCA of Metropolitan

1 Dallas; he has served on the executive committee of the Independent
2 Colleges and Universities of Texas and as chair of the finance
3 committee of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities;
4 Dr. Cook has twice represented Texas at the White House Conference
5 on Aging, and he has also served a term on the Texas Board on Aging;
6 he is a former resident of Waco, where he was a city councilman and
7 mayor pro tem; and

8 WHEREAS, In recognition of his professional achievements,
9 Dr. Cook has received distinguished alumni awards from each of his
10 alma maters, and he was also chosen as the recipient of the
11 Integrity in Christian Education Award from Marketplace
12 Ministries; he is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the*
13 *South and Southwest*, and *Who's Who in American Education*; and

14 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, he enjoys the love and
15 support of his wife, Sheila, who is also an accomplished teacher;
16 the couple's treasured family includes two sons, David and his
17 wife, Nicole, and Mark, and a granddaughter, Molly; Dr. and
18 Mrs. Cook are valued members of Park Cities Baptist Church, and he
19 contributes to the congregation as a deacon; and

20 WHEREAS, Dallas Baptist University has gained immeasurably
21 from Dr. Cook's dedication and vision over the last
22 quarter-century, and it is a privilege to acknowledge his ongoing
23 role in higher education in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be
24 it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
26 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Gary Cook on his 25 years of
27 service as president of Dallas Baptist University and extend to him

1 sincere best wishes for continued success in his important work;
2 and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for Dr. Cook as an expression of high regard by the Texas
5 House of Representatives.