

By: Farney

H.R. No. 991

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Edward B. Burger, a nationally renowned scholar  
2 and educator, has been named the 15th president of Southwestern  
3 University; and

4           WHEREAS, A native of New York State, Dr. Burger graduated  
5 summa cum laude from Connecticut College in 1985 and earned a  
6 doctorate in mathematics from The University of Texas at Austin in  
7 1990; shortly thereafter, he joined the faculty of Williams College  
8 in Massachusetts, where he has since served in several leadership  
9 roles and where he presently holds the title of Francis Christopher  
10 Oakley Third Century Professor of Mathematics; and

11           WHEREAS, Dr. Burger has earned widespread acclaim for his  
12 groundbreaking approach to teaching, which is guided by an  
13 educational philosophy that emphasizes failure as a valuable  
14 learning tool; a former stand-up comic and comedy writer, he has  
15 used his trademark wit to make mathematics come alive in the  
16 classroom, and he has written and appeared in hundreds of  
17 instructional math videos that have been seen by people around the  
18 world; and

19           WHEREAS, In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Burger has  
20 authored and coauthored more than 35 research articles and a dozen  
21 books, including *The Heart of Mathematics: An Invitation to*  
22 *Effective Thinking*, for which he won a Robert W. Hamilton Book  
23 Award in 2001; his most recent publication, *The 5 Elements of*  
24 *Effective Thinking*, has led to speaking invitations from Microsoft,

1 the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the  
2 U.S. Department of the Interior, and other organizations; he has  
3 delivered more than 400 lectures worldwide and appeared in over 40  
4 radio and television broadcasts, among them NBC's *Science of the*  
5 *Winter Olympics* series, where he had a starring role that earned him  
6 a 2010 Telly Award; and

7 WHEREAS, This exceptional educator has been appointed as a  
8 visiting scholar and professor at numerous institutions, including  
9 Baylor University, which in 2010 bestowed on him its prestigious  
10 national accolade, the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great  
11 Teaching; after subsequently teaching in residence for a semester  
12 at Baylor, he was appointed vice provost for strategic educational  
13 initiatives at that university; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Burger's myriad honors also include several  
15 awards from the Mathematical Association of America and induction  
16 into the Fellows of the American Mathematical Society; he was the  
17 2007 recipient of the Award of Excellence from *Technology &*  
18 *Learning* magazine, and he was named "Best Math Teacher" in the 2006  
19 *Reader's Digest* "100 Best of America" issue; in 2010, the  
20 *Huffington Post* designated him a "Game Changer" in the field of  
21 education, making note of his contributions to the academic  
22 dialogue on the nature of creativity; and

23 WHEREAS, Over the course of his career, Dr. Edward Burger has  
24 established himself as a world-class scholar and an educator of  
25 immense talent and insight, and Southwestern University is indeed  
26 fortunate to have this visionary leader at its helm; now,  
27 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
2 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Edward B. Burger on his  
3 appointment as the 15th president of Southwestern University and  
4 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in his new  
5 post; and, be it further

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