

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, James D. Spaniolo is retiring as president of The  
2 University of Texas at Arlington on May 31, 2013, drawing to a close  
3 more than nine years of outstanding service to that institution;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Spaniolo earned his bachelor's degree magna cum  
6 laude from Michigan State University, where he was also the  
7 editor-in-chief of the student newspaper; he went on to earn both a  
8 master's degree in public administration and a law degree from the  
9 University of Michigan in 1975; moreover, during those years, he  
10 served his country as a medical corpsman in the U.S. Army Reserve;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, After handling libel and First Amendment cases for  
13 the law firm of Paul and Thomson in Miami, Florida, Mr. Spaniolo  
14 established the first in-house legal departments at the *Miami*  
15 *Herald* and the American Newspaper Publishers Association; from 1977  
16 to 1989, he held several positions with the Knight-Ridder newspaper  
17 chain, serving as general counsel and general executive at the  
18 *Miami Herald* and vice president for human resources and assistant  
19 to the publisher at the *Detroit Free Press*; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Spaniolo then went on to serve as vice president  
21 and chief program officer for the John S. and James L. Knight  
22 Foundation from 1989 to 1996, and from 1996 to 2004, he was the dean  
23 of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences and a professor at  
24 the School of Journalism at Michigan State University; and

1       WHEREAS, In 2004, Mr. Spaniolo became the seventh president  
2 of The University of Texas at Arlington, and under his  
3 administration, the university's research budget has tripled to  
4 more than \$71.4 million; the university has also increased its  
5 investment in faculty recruitment and retention, creating more than  
6 100 new positions and establishing new endowed chairs and  
7 professorships; the number of private donors to the university has  
8 increased by 34 percent, and donations have grown from \$5.8 million  
9 in 2005 to more than \$23.2 million in 2012; the university's  
10 endowment has more than doubled, from \$39 million in 2004 to \$95  
11 million in 2013; and

12       WHEREAS, During President Spaniolo's tenure, enrollment has  
13 increased at UT Arlington from 25,000 in 2004 to more than 33,800  
14 students in 2013, and new residence halls and apartments have  
15 increased the number of students living on campus to 5,300; in  
16 addition, President Spaniolo has played a leading role in making  
17 the university one of the most diverse in the nation, with a student  
18 population that is 21 percent Hispanic, 15 percent African  
19 American, 10 percent Asian, and 8.3 percent from foreign countries;  
20 the average SAT score of full-time students rose to a new high of  
21 1088 in 2012; and

22       WHEREAS, The university's infrastructure and physical plant  
23 have also improved under President Spaniolo's leadership, with more  
24 than a dozen new or renovated buildings marking an increase of 1.5  
25 million square feet in the past five years; new facilities include  
26 the Engineering Research Building and the 20.5 acre College Park  
27 District, which incorporates parking structures, a residence hall

1 and student apartments, a welcome center, retail space, and a  
2 7,000-seat events center; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite his many professional responsibilities,  
4 President Spaniolo has found time to give back to the community as a  
5 member of the executive committee of the Arlington Chamber of  
6 Commerce and a member of the boards of the Arlington Tomorrow  
7 Foundation, the Center for Innovation, the Fort Worth Chamber of  
8 Commerce, the North Texas Commission, and the Van Cliburn  
9 Foundation; he has earned the Arlington Chamber of Commerce Star  
10 Award, the Sally Kallam Award for support of Leadership Arlington,  
11 and the Silver Eagle Award from the Boy Scouts of America for his  
12 service to Arlington; and

13 WHEREAS, James Spaniolo's vision, energy, and commitment to  
14 excellence have greatly benefited The University of Texas at  
15 Arlington and earned him the respect and admiration of the entire UT  
16 Arlington community, and he may indeed reflect with pride on all  
17 that he has achieved; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
19 Legislature hereby congratulate James D. Spaniolo on his retirement  
20 as president of The University of Texas at Arlington and extend to  
21 him sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and,  
22 be it further

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

Patrick  
Burnam  
Burkett  
Branch

H.R. No. 1081

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1081 was adopted by the House on April 3, 2013, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House