

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 128

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Dr. James M. Simmons, who is retiring January 31, 2013, as president of Lamar University after 42 years of exceptional service; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, An exemplary educator and administrator, he is respected and admired by colleagues, faculty, and students alike, and his presence as president of Lamar University will be greatly missed; now, therefore, be it

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

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Williams, Birdwell, Nichols

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 13, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate