

By: Sheffield

H.C.R. No. 33

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a renowned educator and
2 distinguished leader on March 1, 2014, with the death of Dr. Barry
3 B. Thompson, chancellor emeritus of The Texas A&M University System
4 and president emeritus of Tarleton State University; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Pecos on May 12, 1936, to Tommy and Louise
6 Thompson, this native Texan was raised in Kermit, and he graduated
7 from high school there; he earned an associate's degree in science
8 from Tarleton State in 1956 and a bachelor's degree in science from
9 Texas Tech University in 1958 before he began teaching in Andrews;
10 by age 25, he was a high school principal in the Dalhart Independent
11 School District, and he subsequently served as superintendent of
12 Post ISD and as assistant superintendent for Waco ISD; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson received his master's degree from
14 Texas A&M University--Commerce and his doctoral degree from Texas
15 A&M University and began his career in higher education as a
16 professor at The University of Texas--Pan American; he held several
17 administrative positions at Texas A&M University--Commerce before
18 being appointed president of Tarleton State University in 1982; he
19 went on to serve West Texas A&M University as president, and his
20 leadership at both institutions was characterized by an emphasis on
21 increased funding and on increased enrollment, especially among
22 minority students; and

23 WHEREAS, Named chancellor of The Texas A&M University System
24 in 1994, Dr. Thompson combined system resources to form The Texas

1 A&M University System Health Science Center, and he worked to
2 develop strong partnerships between universities and the public
3 school system; he retired in 1999 but continued to teach doctoral
4 courses at Texas A&M University--Commerce and Tarleton State
5 University; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson was dedicated to civic as well as
7 professional organizations, and he was recognized with the 1996
8 Golden Deeds for Education award from the Texas Association of
9 School Administrators, the 1999 Mirabeau B. Lamar Medal for
10 outstanding leadership in higher education, and the 1999 Boy Scouts
11 of America Silver Beaver Award for his longtime service to the Boy
12 Scouts; additionally, the Barry B. Thompson Student Center on the
13 Tarleton State University campus was dedicated in his honor in
14 1996, and the Dr. Barry B. and Sandra Thompson scholarship fund was
15 established at that school; and

16 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Dr. Thompson enjoyed the love
17 and support of his wife, the former Sandra Sue Davison, whom he
18 married in 1955; he took great pride in their children, Karol, Kim,
19 Scott, and Bart, as well as in their seven grandchildren and four
20 great-grandchildren; a man of faith, he was a valued member of the
21 United Methodist Church; and

22 WHEREAS, The loss of Barry Thompson is keenly felt by the
23 numerous individuals he mentored through the years and by many
24 others whose lives he enriched, but his legacy of achievement and
25 service will continue to benefit this state for years to come; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas

1 hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Barry B. Thompson and extend
2 sincere condolences to his family: to his wife, Sandra Thompson; to
3 his daughters, Karol Wallace and Kim Fimbel and her husband,
4 Robert; to his sons, Scott Thompson and Bart Thompson and his wife,
5 Marie; to his grandchildren, Kate York and her husband, Drew, Sarah
6 Meyers and her husband, Tim, Andrew Fimbel and his wife, Chelsea,
7 Jill Wallace, and Rachel, Julia, and Kittie Thompson; to his
8 great-grandchildren, Emily and Reid York, Ella Meyers, and Riley
9 Fimbel; to his brother, Dan Thompson; and to his other relatives and
10 friends; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
14 Dr. Barry B. Thompson.