

By: Farney

H.R. No. 347

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Southwestern University in Georgetown is
2 celebrating the 175th anniversary of its charter on February 5,
3 2015, and it is indeed fitting to recognize this significant
4 milestone in the history of the state's oldest chartered
5 institution of higher education; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1835, Colonel William B. Travis penned a letter
7 to the *New York Christian Advocate* calling for the establishment of
8 a Methodist presence in the new Republic of Texas, and five years
9 later, the first of Southwestern's four root colleges was
10 established through the visionary leadership of Methodist
11 missionary Martin Ruter; and

12 WHEREAS, The university built a reputation for scholarly
13 excellence, and as it earned wider recognition, its enrollment
14 grew, reaching 1,000 by 1978; eventually, the school eliminated
15 graduate programs in order to focus on undergraduates in the
16 liberal arts and sciences; in 1988, *US News & World Report* named
17 Southwestern the top regional liberal arts college in the nation,
18 and today, both that publication and *USA Today College* rank it among
19 the nation's top liberal arts colleges; and

20 WHEREAS, While maintaining a tradition of academic rigor,
21 with small classes and collaborative research opportunities, the
22 institution also fosters civic engagement and the exploration of
23 multiple perspectives to prepare graduates for the challenges of a
24 rapidly changing world; Southwestern students volunteer at twice

1 the national average rate, and half of all students study abroad;
2 most undergraduates also pursue leadership, service, and activism
3 roles in over 90 student organizations; demonstrating the
4 effectiveness of such a broad-based liberal arts education, more
5 than 90 percent of students find employment or gain acceptance into
6 graduate or professional programs within 10 months of graduation;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Today, Southwestern University has a diverse
9 enrollment of over 1,500 students, and it remains true to its
10 mission, "fostering a liberal arts community whose values and
11 actions encourage contributions toward the well-being of
12 humanity"; over the course of 175 years, this noteworthy
13 institution has provided its students with an education that has
14 enriched them both academically and personally, and in so doing, it
15 has made important contributions to Texas and the world beyond;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
18 Legislature hereby commemorate the 175th anniversary of the charter
19 of Southwestern University and extend to the institution's
20 administration, faculty, staff, and students sincere best wishes
21 for the future; and, be it further

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