

By: Meyer

H.R. No. 1682

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Southern Methodist University is celebrating 100
2 years of operation in 2015, a milestone that marks a century of
3 growth, progress, and achievement; and

4 WHEREAS, SMU traces its roots back to 1911, when the United
5 Methodist Episcopal Church, South, laid the foundation for a new
6 university in Dallas after residents pledged \$300,000 to secure its
7 location there; the institution opened its doors on September 22,
8 1915, welcoming an inaugural class of 456 students at its colleges
9 of liberal arts, music, and theology; and

10 WHEREAS, A private, nonsectarian university, SMU today has an
11 endowment of \$1.4 billion and an enrollment of more than 11,000
12 students from all 50 states and nearly 100 countries, reflecting a
13 wide diversity of geographic, economic, and religious backgrounds;
14 students benefit from small class sizes and a wealth of research and
15 learning resources, including nine libraries that together contain
16 the largest private collection of research materials in the
17 Southwest; under the leadership of President R. Gerald Turner, the
18 university also boasts a world-class faculty and enjoys a
19 reputation as a leader in research across a broad range of
20 disciplines; and

21 WHEREAS, Degrees at the undergraduate, graduate, and
22 professional levels are offered through seven schools, including
23 the Cox School of Business, one of the top-ranked business schools
24 nationally and globally, as well as highly rated colleges of law,

1 engineering, and the arts; named among the best national
2 universities by *U.S. News & World Report*, SMU has also been
3 recognized for the impressive number of its graduates who go on to
4 start businesses and for its record of success in preparing alumni
5 for senior executive positions in the corporate world; and

6 WHEREAS, The picturesque main campus of SMU, located five
7 miles north of downtown Dallas, consists of 101 buildings on 234
8 acres, and the university additionally operates satellite campuses
9 in Plano and in Taos, New Mexico; the Dallas community benefits
10 greatly from the educational and cultural opportunities provided by
11 the university, which welcomes more than 300,000 visitors annually
12 for special events; among the attractions unique to the campus are
13 the George W. Bush Presidential Center, a complex that houses the
14 Bush Presidential Library and Museum and the George W. Bush
15 Institute, and the Meadows Museum, which features an expansive
16 collection of Spanish art; and

17 WHEREAS, The SMU athletics program draws an enthusiastic
18 following as well; students compete in Division I of the American
19 Athletic Conference, and during the 2013-14 school year, 10 of the
20 school's sports teams qualified for postseason tournaments; the SMU
21 men's basketball team made a particularly strong showing, advancing
22 to the championship game of the 2014 National Invitation Tournament
23 and tallying an unprecedented number of home victories; and

24 WHEREAS, Looking to the future, the university launched the
25 Second Century Campaign in 2008 to fulfill a comprehensive set of
26 objectives that will further enhance SMU's status as a premier
27 learning environment; since that time, the initiative has resulted

1 in new classroom, athletic, and student life facilities, as well as
2 student scholarships, academic programs, and faculty positions;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Southern Methodist
5 University has contributed to the prosperity and cultural vitality
6 of the Lone Star State and to the advancement of human knowledge
7 around the world, and the next century will no doubt continue the
8 proud tradition of excellence associated with this venerable
9 institution; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
11 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of Southern
12 Methodist University and extend to the school's administration,
13 faculty, staff, and students sincere best wishes for the future;
14 and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for the university as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.