

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 948**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Dr. Norman C. Francis, who is retiring as president of Xavier University of Louisiana on June 30, 2015, after 56 years of distinguished service at the institution; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Francis is a greatly respected leader in the field of higher education; he has served as president of Xavier University of Louisiana for 47 years, and under his leadership, the university has earned a stellar reputation for academic excellence and student achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Francis has worked diligently to ensure the success of the university and of the students who have enrolled at the school throughout his tenure; in 2015, the institution was named one of the nation's best colleges by the *Princeton Review*; and

**WHEREAS**, Xavier University of Louisiana is ranked number one in the nation by number of bachelor's degrees awarded to African American students in biological and biomedical sciences, physical sciences, and physics and is also ranked number one by number of African American graduates who go on to complete medical school; 71 percent of students at the university are enrolled in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Francis has played a key role in the long and distinguished history of Xavier University of Louisiana; his professional contributions have positioned the university to continue on a path of success well into the future, and his presence will be greatly missed; and

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**WHEREAS,** In recognition of his exemplary service, Dr. Francis is being honored at a special ceremony at the historic Julia Ideson Public Library in Houston on May 23, 2015; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby commend Dr. Norman C. Francis on his exceptional leadership as president of Xavier University of Louisiana and extend to him best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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

Ellis

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 21, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate