

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 109

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. W. David Watts will retire as president of The
2 University of Texas of the Permian Basin in August 2017, drawing to
3 a close more than 16 years of exemplary service to the university;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, A native Texan, David Watts received his bachelor's
6 degree in sociology and English from The University of Texas at
7 Austin and his master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from the
8 State University of New York at Buffalo; early in his academic
9 career, he taught in the sociology and anthropology department of
10 Ohio University and at Southwest Texas State University, where he
11 also served as department chair; he went on to assume the post of
12 dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Southeastern Louisiana
13 University and subsequently served as vice president for academic
14 and student affairs at Jacksonville State University in Alabama;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Watts became the fifth president of The
17 University of Texas of the Permian Basin in February 2001, and over
18 the course of his exemplary 15-year tenure, UTPB has grown from
19 2,200 students to more than 6,100, while the enrollment in
20 engineering classes has nearly quintupled, from 111 students in
21 2009 to 541 in 2014; under his stewardship, the university has
22 earned professional accreditation for its programs in business,
23 engineering, nursing, education, music, athletic training, and
24 social work; and

1 WHEREAS, In his work to expand the school's Midland campus,
2 Dr. Watts has overseen the creation of the Wagner Noel Performing
3 Arts Center as well as the planning for a new 80,000-square-foot
4 engineering school; moreover, UTPB has created a STEM Charter
5 School and a pioneering virtual Early College High School network
6 that serves nine school districts in Texas, and it has also become
7 the first university in Texas to offer a \$10,000 bachelor's degree
8 in selected majors; in 2015, Dr. Watts was selected as the Citizen
9 of the Year by the Odessa Chamber of Commerce; and

10 WHEREAS, This esteemed administrator's dedication, visionary
11 leadership, and commitment to excellence have greatly benefited The
12 University of Texas of the Permian Basin and earned him the respect
13 and admiration of its students, faculty, and staff, and he may
14 indeed reflect with pride on a career well spent as he embarks on
15 the next exciting chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. W. David Watts on his
18 retirement as president of The University of Texas of the Permian
19 Basin and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success
20 and happiness; and, be it further

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