

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 2625

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Jim Richardson will be retiring on August 1, 2017,
2 after 34 years of service as headmaster of Dallas Academy, and this
3 provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on his long and
4 distinguished tenure at the helm of that institution; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1983, Mr. Richardson was appointed as the sixth
6 headmaster of Dallas Academy, bringing to the campus a vision for
7 growth and a genuine commitment to promoting educational excellence
8 for students with learning differences; under his leadership, the
9 school quickly established an athletic program and began offering a
10 variety of student extracurricular activities, and its enrollment
11 steadily grew, surpassing 100 in 1992; and

12 WHEREAS, The increased number of students required expanded
13 facilities, and Mr. Richardson's leadership was key to the many
14 changes that took place at the school in the late 1990s and early
15 2000s; a gymnasium was added in 1997, and after additional land was
16 purchased and the academy merged with the Lattner School, a
17 beautiful new addition was dedicated in 2008 that included a
18 library, cafeteria, and multiple learning labs; today, the campus
19 accommodates a student body that numbers approximately 200; and

20 WHEREAS, While guiding the development of Dallas Academy,
21 Mr. Richardson has had the joy of watching its students, many of
22 whom had struggled in public schools, gain newfound confidence and
23 achieve success in their course work and activities; during his
24 tenure, the academy's football team won its first state title, its

1 yearbook, *The Legend*, received national recognition, and
2 performing arts students staged the first annual holiday musical;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Wichita Falls, Jim Richardson was
5 inspired to pursue his calling after witnessing the compassion and
6 commitment of his mother, who taught students with special needs;
7 he worked as a teacher and administrator at Skyline High School from
8 1975 to 1983 before being recruited as headmaster of Dallas
9 Academy; retirement will afford him the opportunity to spend more
10 time with his treasured family, which includes his wife, Meg, his
11 daughter, Meghan, his son-in-law, Ken, and his three grandsons; and

12 WHEREAS, Revered for his passion and enthusiasm, Jim
13 Richardson has made a transformative impact through his work as
14 headmaster that will shape the future of Dallas Academy for years to
15 come, and he departs from his post with the admiration of his
16 colleagues and the gratitude of countless students and families;
17 now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
19 Legislature hereby honor Jim Richardson on his retirement as
20 headmaster of Dallas Academy and extend to him sincere best wishes
21 for the future; and, be it further

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