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By:  Burrows H.R. No. 719

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Former state senator Robert Duncan concluded his noteworthy tenure as chancellor of the Texas Tech University System on August 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Appointed in 2014, Chancellor Duncan guided the system through a period of tremendous growth, with record levels of student enrollment and degrees awarded; he also fostered a culture of sustained philanthropy, and fund-raising surpassed $615 million while the endowment grew by over $150 million to a total of $1.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Duncan collaborated closely with institution presidents to support system expansion in West Texas; he worked tirelessly toward the goal of establishing a veterinary school in Amarillo to meet the growing need for large-animal vets, and he oversaw efforts to build a new dental school in El Paso; in addition, he addressed the acute shortage of mental health care in the region by creating the Texas Tech Mental Health Institute to increase collaboration and spur faculty innovation; and

WHEREAS, Previously, Chancellor Duncan served in the state legislature for more than two decades; first elected to the house in 1992, he won a senate seat in a special election four years later, and he represented Senate District 28 for nearly 18 years; admired for cooperating across the aisle to find solutions to the challenges facing rural Texas, he took an active role in reforming the Texas Department of Insurance and resurrected the boll weevil eradication program; a champion of higher education, he was instrumental in the development of such programs as the National Research University Fund and the Texas Research Incentive Program; over the course of his tenure, Senator Duncan chaired the State Affairs Committee for a decade, and he also led the Jurisprudence and Long Term Care Legislative Oversight Committees; moreover, he was repeatedly named one of the state's 10 best legislators by *Texas Monthly* as well as a Texas Super Lawyer; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Duncan holds both a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and a law degree from TTU, and he was a law partner at Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam in Lubbock for more than 25 years; in all his endeavors, he has enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Terri, and his children, Lindsey and Matthew; and

WHEREAS, Through his visionary leadership, Robert Duncan significantly advanced the mission of the Texas Tech University System, and over the course of his long career in public service, he has made lasting contributions to higher education and to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commend the Honorable Robert Duncan for his accomplishments as chancellor of the Texas Tech University System and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Chancellor Duncan as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.