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By:  Parker H.R. No. 1265

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Karen Bell is completing her exemplary tenure as British consul general in Houston in the summer of 2019; and

WHEREAS, Since 2015, Ms. Bell has overseen the United Kingdom's engagement in a five-state area that encompasses Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico; in that role, she guides the provision of consular services to British nationals while working tirelessly to strengthen political ties between the U.S. and the UK, to enhance trade and investment partnerships, and to promote science and innovation links; her tenure has seen numerous milestones in the relationship between Texas and the UK, including the inauguration of the Bio Bridge initiative to share life science technology and the creation of multiple memoranda of understanding laying the foundations for direct cooperation in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, A career diplomat known for her deep expertise as well as her kindness, wit, and charm, Ms. Bell joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the 1980s; she served most recently as deputy head of mission for the British Consulate General in Hong Kong, and her previous postings included Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, and Canada; a promotion is taking her next to the Republic of Vanuatu, where she will become the UK high commissioner; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bell is supported in all her endeavors by the love and encouragement of her husband, Adrian Bell, and their sons, Chris and Tom; while residing in the Bayou City, the family gained its very own Texas native, a border collie named Stella; and

WHEREAS, Through her knowledge, experience, and steadfast dedication, Karen Bell has helped to further the long-standing friendship between the Lone Star State and the United Kingdom, and in so doing, she has earned the admiration and appreciation of innumerable Texans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor Karen Bell for her outstanding service as British consul general in Houston and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success in her new role; and, be it further

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