

By: Bell of Montgomery

H.R. No. 541

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Students, faculty, and members of the
2 administration of Prairie View A&M University are visiting the
3 State Capitol on February 25, 2019; and

4 WHEREAS, Prairie View A&M University dates back to 1876,
5 during the Reconstruction Era, when the 15th Texas Legislature
6 established a school known as the "Alta Vista Agricultural and
7 Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth"; the first students
8 enrolled in 1878, and a normal school for training teachers, the
9 state's first coeducational public institution of higher learning,
10 was created by the legislature the following year; the normal
11 school and the agricultural and mechanical college were combined by
12 the 20th Legislature in 1887; and

13 WHEREAS, The institution expanded its curriculum to four
14 years in 1901 and began offering intercollegiate athletics three
15 years later; a cooperative agricultural extension program was added
16 in 1914, and establishment of the Army Reserve Officer Training
17 Corps followed in 1917; during the 1920s, the school introduced the
18 first baccalaureate degrees and a school of nursing, took part in
19 the organization of the Southwest Athletic Conference, and
20 initiated the Prairie View Interscholastic League for African
21 American high schools, which later merged with the University
22 Interscholastic League; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1937, a graduate school was established at
24 Prairie View; the school began a program for commissioning U.S.

1 Army officers in 1943 and naval reserve officers in 1968; five
2 commissioned officers from the school's army training corps have
3 gone on to become three-star generals, and three officers from its
4 navy training corps have become admirals; and

5 WHEREAS, Voters approved a state constitutional amendment in
6 1984 that recognized Prairie View A&M as "an institution of the
7 first class" and restructured the state's Permanent University Fund
8 to include Prairie View as a beneficiary; in addition, the
9 legislature established the Texas Institute for the Preservation of
10 History and Culture at Prairie View in 1999; the school launched its
11 first doctoral program, in juvenile justice, in 2001 and has since
12 added others in electrical engineering, juvenile forensic
13 psychology, and education leadership; and

14 WHEREAS, With the administration now led by president
15 Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, the university serves an enrollment of over
16 9,000 students, and Texas benefits from the contributions of the
17 school's 70,000 alumni; and

18 WHEREAS, Dedicated to achieving excellence in teaching,
19 research, and service, Prairie View A&M seeks to provide students
20 with a quality educational experience that reflects its values of
21 access, accountability, diversity, leadership, relevance, and
22 social responsibility; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize February 25, 2019, as Prairie View A&M
25 University Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those
26 associated with the university sincere best wishes for the future.