

By: Burrows

H.R. No. 719

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Previously, Chancellor Duncan served in the state
19 legislature for more than two decades; first elected to the house in
20 1992, he won a senate seat in a special election four years later,
21 and he represented Senate District 28 for nearly 18 years; admired
22 for cooperating across the aisle to find solutions to the
23 challenges facing rural Texas, he took an active role in reforming
24 the Texas Department of Insurance and resurrected the boll weevil

1 eradication program; a champion of higher education, he was
2 instrumental in the development of such programs as the National
3 Research University Fund and the Texas Research Incentive Program;
4 over the course of his tenure, Senator Duncan chaired the State
5 Affairs Committee for a decade, and he also led the Jurisprudence
6 and Long Term Care Legislative Oversight Committees; moreover, he
7 was repeatedly named one of the state's 10 best legislators by *Texas*
8 *Monthly* as well as a Texas Super Lawyer; and

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

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

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

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