

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 849

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Raymund A. Paredes is retiring from his post as  
2 the Texas commissioner of higher education in August 2019, drawing  
3 to a close a tenure distinguished by significant progress and  
4 achievement; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has served as CEO of the Texas Higher  
6 Education Coordinating Board since 2004, overseeing statewide  
7 strategic planning for education and the administration of  
8 financial aid; over the course of his exemplary 15-year tenure, he  
9 has led the effort to reinvent developmental education in Texas,  
10 introduced outcome-based funding for community and technical  
11 colleges, and launched an affordable bachelor's degree program at  
12 more than 10 institutions; and

13 WHEREAS, A native of El Paso, Raymund Paredes earned his  
14 bachelor's degree in English from The University of Texas at  
15 Austin; he served for two years in the U.S. Army, including a  
16 14-month tour of duty in Vietnam with the First Infantry Division,  
17 and after returning to civilian life, he received a master's degree  
18 in American studies from the University of Southern California and  
19 a Ph.D. in American civilization from UT Austin in 1973; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes spent much of his academic career at the  
21 University of California, Los Angeles, where he was an English  
22 professor and vice chancellor for academic development; he also  
23 served as special assistant to the president of the UC System,  
24 working on outreach efforts to improve access to education for

1 students from educationally disadvantaged communities; he went on  
2 to serve as director of creativity and culture at the Rockefeller  
3 Foundation and as president for programs for the Hispanic  
4 Scholarship Fund; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has been a member of the Education  
6 Commission of the States, the national board of Big Brothers Big  
7 Sisters, and the board of the Texas Cultural Trust, as well as a  
8 trustee of the College Board and Mercy College of New York; in 2007,  
9 he was named one of *Hispanic Business* magazine's 100 Most  
10 Influential Hispanics; and

11 WHEREAS, This esteemed professional's vision, leadership,  
12 and commitment to the mission of higher education have greatly  
13 benefited the students of Texas, and he may indeed reflect with  
14 pride on all that he has accomplished; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby commend Dr. Raymund A. Paredes on his 15 years  
17 of service as Texas commissioner of higher education and extend to  
18 him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for Dr. Paredes as an expression of high regard by the  
21 Texas House of Representatives.