

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texans lost a tireless champion of higher education
2 with the death of former University of Texas at Austin president
3 William C. Powers Jr. on March 10, 2019, at the age of 72; and

4 WHEREAS, A member of the UT School of Law faculty for more
5 than four decades, Bill Powers took the helm of the university in
6 2006; he implemented sweeping reform of the undergraduate
7 curriculum, including the creation of mandatory signature courses
8 for freshmen, and he guided the establishment of both the School of
9 Undergraduate Studies and the Dell Medical School, the first new
10 medical school at a tier one public university in decades; his
11 commitment to increasing the four-year graduation rate brought a
12 dramatic improvement, from about 50 percent to nearly 70 percent;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Powers strived to make the university more
15 efficient and accountable while also raising \$3.1 billion through
16 his eight-year Campaign for Texas; in addition, he launched the
17 ESPN-owned Longhorn Network, which is expected to generate \$300
18 million over 20 years, much of that for the endowment of faculty
19 chairs; under his leadership, the construction of 13 major
20 buildings was commenced or completed; he established a vice
21 presidency to oversee diversity and community engagement, and he
22 was a stalwart advocate for the use of race and ethnicity as one
23 factor in admissions, pursuing the *Fisher* affirmative action case
24 all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and winning a landmark ruling;

1 moreover, he was a fierce defender of the academic values and
2 world-changing research that made his institution a "university of
3 the first class"; he enjoyed a sterling reputation in the higher
4 education community, and in 2013, he was elected chair of the
5 Association of American Universities, which represents the top
6 research universities in the U.S. and Canada; when he stepped down
7 as UT president two years later, his administration ranked as the
8 second-longest in UT history; and

9 WHEREAS, Born in Los Angeles in 1946, Mr. Powers was the son
10 of Mildred Rose Powers and William Charles Powers Sr.; he grew up in
11 Southern California and earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry
12 from the University of California, Berkeley; after serving in the
13 U.S. Navy for three years, he graduated magna cum laude from
14 Harvard Law School, where he was managing editor of the Harvard Law
15 Review; he clerked for a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the
16 Ninth Circuit and taught at the University of Washington, the
17 University of Michigan, and Southern Methodist University before
18 joining the UT Law faculty in 1977; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Powers became one of the nation's foremost
20 experts on torts, and he was appointed by the prestigious American
21 Law Institute as Reporter for *Restatement (Third) for Torts*, the
22 most important text for practitioners in that field; his
23 outstanding work then prompted the ALI to name him the R. Ammi
24 Cutter Reporter; the author of numerous other articles and books on
25 tort law and legal philosophy, he was much in demand as a consultant
26 on a wide range of complex tort cases, and he argued 50 cases before
27 the Texas Supreme Court; at the same time, his teaching and

1 mentorship influenced generations of attorneys; and

2 WHEREAS, While serving as dean of the law school, Mr. Powers
3 was appointed to Enron's board of directors to lead an internal
4 probe of the company's financial dealings and its ultimate
5 collapse; his exhaustive report became a road map for more than a
6 dozen congressional and executive branch investigations of
7 corporate malfeasance, and it resulted in criminal prosecutions; in
8 the wake of the scandal, Congress passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act to
9 strengthen financial and securities regulations; and

10 WHEREAS, After leaving UT, Mr. Powers became of counsel to
11 the Jackson Walker law firm, where he generously shared his
12 knowledge with newly minted attorneys and seasoned professionals
13 alike; he was the recipient of many accolades, among them the Robert
14 B. McKay Award from the American Bar Association and the French
15 Order of the Légion d'Honneur, and he was selected as the 2014
16 Alumnus of the Year by UC-Berkeley; and

17 WHEREAS, Bill Powers was a brilliant attorney, leading legal
18 scholar, and visionary standard-bearer for higher education, and
19 although he will be deeply missed by all who were privileged to
20 share in the richness of his life, he has left an indelible imprint
21 on both the practice of law and the educational landscape; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Bill Powers and
25 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of
26 36 years, Kim Heilbrun; to his children, Matt, Kate, Allison,
27 Annie, and Reid Powers; to his sister, Susan Powers; to his six

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1 grandchildren; and to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further
2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bill
5 Powers.

Howard

Bonnen of Brazoria	Guerra	Noble
Allen	Guillen	Oliverson
Allison	Gutierrez	Ortega
Anchia	Harless	Pacheco
Anderson	Harris	Paddie
Ashby	Hefner	Parker
Bailes	Hernandez	Patterson
Beckley	Herrero	Paul
Bell of Kaufman	Hinojosa	Perez
Bell of Montgomery	Holland	Phelan
Bernal	Howard	Price
Biedermann	Huberty	Ramos
Blanco	Hunter	Raney
Bohac	Israel	Raymond
Bonnen of Galveston	E. Johnson of Dallas	Reynolds
Bowers	J. Johnson of Dallas	Rodriguez
Buckley	Johnson of Harris	Romero, Jr.
Bucy	Kacal	Rose
Burns	King of Hemphill	Rosenthal
Burrows	King of Parker	Sanford
Button	King of Uvalde	Schaefer
Cain	Klick	Shaheen
Calanni	Krause	Sheffield
Canales	Kuempel	Sherman, Sr.
Capriglione	Lambert	Shine
Clardy	Landgraf	Smith
Cole	Lang	Smithee
Coleman	Larson	Springer
Collier	Leach	Stephenson
Cortez	Leman	Stickland
Craddick	Longoria	Stucky
Cyrrier	Lopez	Swanson
Darby	Lozano	Talarico
Davis of Dallas	Lucio III	Thierry
Davis of Harris	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Dean	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Deshotel	Metcalf	Tinderholt
Dominguez	Meyer	Toth
Dutton	Meza	Turner of Dallas
Farrar	Middleton	Turner of Tarrant
Fierro	Miller	VanDeaver
Flynn	Minjarez	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morales	White
Geren	Morrison	Wilson
Gervin-Hawkins	Muñoz, Jr.	Wray
Goldman	Murphy	Wu
González of Dallas	Murr	Zedler
González of El Paso	Neave	Zerwas
Goodwin	Nevárez	Zwiener

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 999 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 8, 2019.

Chief Clerk of the House