

By: Dominguez

H.R. No. 159

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Barney Graham has contributed significantly to
2 the development of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines, and he is indeed
3 deserving of special recognition; and

4 WHEREAS, A graduate of Rice University in 1975, Dr. Graham
5 went on to earn his medical degree at the University of Kansas
6 School of Medicine and to obtain a Ph.D. in microbiology and
7 immunology from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; he
8 then joined the faculty at Vanderbilt as a professor of medicine
9 with a joint appointment in the department of microbiology and
10 immunology; in 2000, he became a founding investigator for the
11 Vaccine Research Center at the National Institute of Allergy and
12 Infectious Diseases, and he currently serves as deputy director of
13 the center and chief of the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory and
14 Translational Science Core; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the course of his career, Dr. Graham has made
16 invaluable advancements in vaccine science; his work on respiratory
17 syncytial virus led to a breakthrough in the understanding of
18 coronaviruses and made possible a rapid response to the COVID-19
19 pandemic; and

20 WHEREAS, During the race to provide COVID-19 vaccines,
21 Dr. Graham frequently collaborated with his longtime friend and
22 former colleague, Dr. Bill Gruber, who is senior vice president of
23 vaccine clinical research and development at Pfizer; Dr. Graham's
24 laboratory partnered with Moderna to develop a vaccine using a new,

1 gene-based technology, while Dr. Gruber oversaw a similar project
2 at Pfizer; the two communicated regularly to exchange information,
3 and both vaccines were authorized for use by the Food and Drug
4 Administration in late 2020; and

5 WHEREAS, Through his monumental efforts, Barney Graham has
6 helped alleviate suffering and save the lives of innumerable
7 people, and in so doing, he has earned the deep respect and
8 appreciation of all who are privileged to know him; now, therefore,
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
11 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby honor Dr. Barney Graham for
12 his contributions to the development of COVID-19 vaccines and
13 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in his
14 important work; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Dr. Graham as an expression of high regard by the Texas
17 House of Representatives.