87R13675 JRI-D

By:  Sherman, Sr. H.R. No. 312

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Gary C. Thomas is retiring as president and executive director of Dallas Area Rapid Transit, concluding an exemplary career with the organization that has spanned more than two decades; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, Mr. Thomas joined DART as senior vice president of project management, and he was named president and executive director in 2001; his innovative leadership has been instrumental in numerous initiatives, including a major expansion of the DART light rail system, which is the longest of its kind in the nation; he also adopted policies that furthered development projects near DART stations, an approach that has helped strengthen the local economy; other highlights of his tenure include the establishment of a clean fuels program for the agency's bus fleet as well as multiple improvements to public transit technologies and services; and

WHEREAS, Before being hired by DART, Mr. Thomas compiled 18 years of experience as a consulting engineer; he was initially employed by Black & Veatch, and he went on to excel in several managerial positions for Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, where he began working on DART-related projects in 1986; and

WHEREAS, A highly respected figure in his field, Mr. Thomas has served in prominent roles in a number of professional organizations, including the South West Transit Association, the Transportation Research Board, and the American Public Transportation Association; a graduate of Texas Tech University, where he earned bachelor's degrees in architecture and civil engineering, he is the recipient of the Distinguished Engineer Award from the university's Whitacre College of Engineering; and

WHEREAS, Gary Thomas's expertise and vision have enabled DART to develop effective transportation solutions in an era of immense growth for the Metroplex, and his achievements will continue to benefit area residents and businesses for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Gary C. Thomas on his retirement as the president and executive director of Dallas Area Rapid Transit and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Thomas as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.