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By:  Price H.R. No. 1679

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Texas A&M University System, West Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory are hosting the dedication of the Charles W. "Doc" Graham '53 DVM, The Texas A&M University System Center on the campus of West Texas A&M University on June 3, 2021; and

WHEREAS, This exciting new veterinary-focused center is comprised of two recently completed buildings, which opened in September 2020; the Veterinary Education, Research, and Outreach (VERO) Building is a $22-million, 36,000-square-foot facility that serves as a gateway for students who are interested in pursuing veterinary science, and it also promotes collaborative and multidisciplinary research among scientists; in addition, the VERO program will host current A&M veterinary students for clinical rotations and internships that will introduce them to the Texas livestock industry, serve as home for the A&M veterinary college's 2+2 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, and house researchers; and

WHEREAS, The new Charles W. Graham, DVM, Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) is a $17.6-million, 22,000-square-foot facility that incorporates state-of-the-art diagnostic services in bacteriology, pathology, serology, and virology; in addition, the TVMDL is home to one of only two high-containment, biosafety level 3 laboratories in Texas, designed to test for animal diseases that pose a threat to the public health and the agricultural economy; the facility will also provide veterinary students at all levels with a wealth of practical experience; and

WHEREAS, The TVMDL and the new center are both named in honor of Dr. Charles W. "Doc" Graham, a distinguished 1953 graduate of Texas A&M, one of the world's leading equine veterinarians, and a longtime leader in the horse and cattle industries in Texas; he has been recognized by Texas A&M's AgriLife program, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and veterinary college and inducted to many halls of fame; and

WHEREAS, By strengthening the study and practice of large-animal veterinary medicine in Texas, this new center and these two new state-of-the-art facilities represent a considerable investment in the future prosperity of the region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the Charles W. "Doc" Graham '53 DVM, The Texas A&M University System Center and the VERO and TVMDL buildings on the campus of West Texas A&M University and extend to all those affiliated with the school sincere best wishes for continued success.