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By:  Kacal H.R. No. 1741

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Dr. M. Katherine "Kathy" Banks will become the 26th president of Texas A&M University on June 1, 2021, and this milestone in her impressive career truly merits special recognition; and

WHEREAS, A native of Whitesburg, Kentucky, Kathy Banks is a 1978 graduate of Whitesburg High School, and she earned her bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Florida, her master's degree from the University of North Carolina, and her Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from Duke University; earlier in her career, she served as an associate professor at Kansas State University, and from 1997 to 2012, she was a civil engineering professor and department head at Purdue University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Banks joined Texas A&M in 2012 as vice chancellor and dean of engineering, leading one of the largest engineering schools in the nation; she has served as a University Distinguished Professor, as the Harold J. Haynes Dean's Chair professor, and as agency director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station and provided oversight of the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service as well as the Texas A&M Transportation Institute; recognized as a prominent scholar in her field, she has authored or coauthored more than 150 journal articles, proceedings papers, and book chapters, and she was elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineering and as a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Banks is only the second woman to serve as Texas A&M president in the school's history; as she takes over her new role, she will retain the title of vice chancellor for national laboratories and national security strategic initiatives for the Texas A&M System; she will also remain as a board member and executive engaged with Triad National Security, LLC, which manages the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and oversee the Bush Combat Development Complex at the A&M System RELLIS Campus; and

WHEREAS, In all her endeavors, Dr. Banks enjoys the love and support of her husband, Dr. Paul Schwab, a Texas A&M soil and crop sciences professor, as well as that of their six children and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, This dynamic educator's dedication, expertise, and commitment to excellence have greatly benefited the mission of Texas A&M and earned her the respect and admiration of the school's students, faculty, regents, and staff, and she may indeed reflect with pride on her remarkable record of achievement as she takes on the challenges and opportunities of her new position; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. M. Katherine Banks on her appointment as president of Texas A&M University and extend to her sincere best wishes for a successful tenure; and, be it further

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