

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 1741

R E S O L U T I O N

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

5           WHEREAS, A native of Whitesburg, Kentucky, Kathy Banks is a  
6 1978 graduate of Whitesburg High School, and she earned her  
7 bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from the University  
8 of Florida, her master's degree from the University of North  
9 Carolina, and her Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from  
10 Duke University; earlier in her career, she served as an associate  
11 professor at Kansas State University, and from 1997 to 2012, she was  
12 a civil engineering professor and department head at Purdue  
13 University; and

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

1 Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers; and

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

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

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

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

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