

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

WHEREAS, October 12, 2023, marks the 111th anniversary of Rice University's formal opening ceremonies, an event that is commemorated annually as Rice Day; and

WHEREAS, On October 12, 1912, students, faculty, and trustees of the Rice Institute gathered alongside local and state officials and dignitaries from governments and universities around the world to celebrate the establishment of a new institution of higher learning; in his address, President Edgar Odell Lovett announced that Rice would "aspire to university standing of the highest grade," while proposing "to assign no upper limit to its educational endeavor"; and

WHEREAS, Since that historic day, Rice has grown tremendously in enrollment and academic stature; in recognition of the changing and broadening scope of its educational mission, its name was changed to William Marsh Rice University on July 1, 1960; today, it is a globally oriented, private institution that boasts an impressive 6-to-1 undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio, and it consistently ranks highly among private universities for best quality of life and best value; it is further recognized as one of the most diverse private universities, with more than a quarter of students classified as minorities and more than 60 countries represented in its undergraduate and graduate student bodies; and

WHEREAS, Rice holds membership in the Association of American Universities, an organization consisting of North America's 71 leading research universities; its faculty and alumni have made significant contributions in numerous fields, and alumni have notably gone on to win the Pulitzer Prize, the Nobel Prize, and Olympic gold medals, to set records for human spaceflight, to win Oscar, Emmy, and Grammy Awards, and to serve in offices as prominent as lieutenant governor of Texas; they have helped found such Lone Star institutions as Austin City Limits and the Texas Film Commission and have made their mark in countless other areas of endeavor that have enriched our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The achievements of Rice University and its alumni have helped to keep Texas at the forefront of research, scholarship, and innovation, and the observance of Rice Day provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on the long and distinguished history of one of our state's most venerated educational institutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby recognize October 12, 2023, as Rice Day and extend sincere best wishes to the university's students, faculty, staff, and alumni as they celebrate the 111th anniversary of Rice's historic opening ceremonies; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the university as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Miles

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on October 12, 2023.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate