

By: Darby

H.R. No. 94

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Howard College president Dr. Cheryl Sparks
2 celebrated her 70th birthday on November 9, 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Big Spring, Cheryl Sparks
4 attended The University of Texas at El Paso and Howard College
5 before going on to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree from
6 Texas Tech University, where she also completed her doctorate in
7 higher education; early in her career, she served Howard College in
8 such positions as dean of students, vice president for
9 institutional advancement, and assistant to the president; she was
10 appointed president by the board of trustees in 1992, becoming only
11 the second female community college president in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Sparks now ranks as the longest-serving
13 community college president in Texas; she guides campuses in Big
14 Spring, Lamesa, and San Angelo, as well as the SouthWest College for
15 the Deaf; over the years, she has served higher education in myriad
16 leadership roles, including chair of the Rural Community College
17 Alliance and of the Texas Association of Community Colleges
18 telecommunications committee; she has been a member of the
19 executive committee of the Texas Association of Community Colleges
20 and of the boards of numerous organizations, among them the Texas
21 Association of Community College Trustees and Administrators, the
22 Texas Association of Community College Foundations, and the Texas
23 Junior College Association; and

24 WHEREAS, Highly engaged in civic life, Dr. Sparks has

1 benefited her fellow residents through her efforts as president of
2 the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, board chair of Scenic
3 Mountain Medical Center, and member of the boards of such
4 organizations as the Big Spring Rotary Club, United Way of Big
5 Spring and Howard County, the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center,
6 and the YMCA; she earned the Service Above Self Award from Rotary
7 International, and she was named 1992 Big Spring Area Chamber of
8 Commerce Woman of the Year and 2005 Distinguished Woman of Howard
9 County; and

10 WHEREAS, In all her endeavors, Dr. Sparks enjoys the support
11 of a loving family that includes her husband, John Richard Sparks,
12 her son, J. Rich Sparks, and his wife, Sarah, and two grandchildren,
13 Jenson and Lindley; and

14 WHEREAS, Cheryl Sparks has played a vital role in advancing
15 the proud legacy of Howard College, and her professional
16 accomplishments and civic contributions have earned the lasting
17 admiration of her fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
19 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby congratulate Dr. Cheryl
20 Sparks on her 70th birthday and commend her for her service as
21 president of Howard College; and, be it further

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