

By: Plesa

H.R. No. 481

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Dallas has greatly  
2 benefited from the visionary leadership of President Richard C.  
3 Benson, who has guided the institution over the past eight years;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, In his role at UTD's helm, Dr. Benson has launched  
6 ambitious fundraising endeavors, including the New Dimensions  
7 campaign, which has amassed more than \$415 million to date; he has  
8 also overseen tens of millions of dollars in research expenditures,  
9 and his tenure has coincided with the advancement of several  
10 significant campus projects, including the opening of the Texas  
11 Instruments Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building and the  
12 breaking of ground on the 12-acre Athenaeum cultural district; and

13           WHEREAS, Dr. Benson earned his bachelor's degree in aerospace  
14 and mechanical science from Princeton University in 1973, his  
15 master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of  
16 Virginia in 1974, and his doctorate in mechanical engineering from  
17 the University of California, Berkeley, in 1977; prior to the start  
18 of his career in higher education, he was employed with the Xerox  
19 Corporation; in 1980, he became a professor of mechanical  
20 engineering at the University of Rochester, where he later served  
21 as an associate dean and chair of the Department of Mechanical  
22 Engineering; and

23           WHEREAS, While at Penn State from 1995 to 2005, Dr. Benson  
24 headed the Department of Mechanical Engineering, later renamed the

1 Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering; he also served as  
2 dean of the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech from 2005 to  
3 2016, during which time that department achieved record growth; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Benson has been honored on many occasions by the  
5 American Society of Mechanical Engineers, of which he has been a  
6 Fellow since 1998; he received ASME's Henry Hess Award in 1984, and  
7 in 2009, he was elected to a three-year term on the organization's  
8 board of governors; he has further held editorial positions with  
9 several ASME publications, including its *Journal of Applied*  
10 *Mechanics*; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure as president, Dr. Richard  
12 Benson has worked tirelessly to elevate UTD's status as a  
13 first-rate research university and a premier institution of higher  
14 learning, and his achievements will continue to be appreciated for  
15 many years to come; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby honor President Richard C. Benson for his  
18 outstanding service to The University of Texas at Dallas and the  
19 field of higher education and extend to him sincere best wishes for  
20 the future; and, be it further

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