

By: Johnson

H.R. No. 778

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The George R. Brown School of Engineering and
2 Computing at Rice University in Houston is celebrating its 50th
3 anniversary in 2025; and

4 WHEREAS, An integral component of the university's rich
5 legacy, engineering has been a central focus since it was founded as
6 the Rice Institute in 1912; its first engineering degrees were
7 conferred in 1916, and over the years, the course of study grew to
8 include a variety of different programs, degrees, and research
9 opportunities; by the late 1960s, the school had been the site of a
10 number of significant engineering advancements, including the
11 installation of a nuclear reactor and the development of the first
12 artificial heart; and

13 WHEREAS, George R. Brown was elected to the Rice Board of
14 Trustees in 1943, and in 1950, he became the first alumnus to be
15 named its chair; during his tenure, he oversaw the construction of
16 Fondren Library, Anderson Hall, and the Abercrombie Engineering
17 Laboratory, as well as the opening of a 70,000-seat football
18 stadium; in 1968, his foundation pledged some \$4 million to the
19 school of engineering, and he traveled around the country to
20 solicit further donations to a \$33 million capital campaign from
21 alumni of the newly redesignated William Marsh Rice University; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1975, the school's science-engineering division
23 was divided into the George R. Brown School of Engineering and the
24 School of Natural Sciences; guided by inaugural Rice president

1 Edgar O. Lovett's "no upper limit" maxim, the engineering school
2 has since been named among the top programs in the country; it has
3 merited this distinction by focusing on interdisciplinary
4 solutions that integrate sciences, humanities, architecture, and
5 business; the school encompasses nine academic departments, and its
6 research efforts are further enriched by 22 engineering-related
7 institutes and centers; ably guided since 2021 by its dean, Luay
8 Nakhleh, nearly one-third of Rice undergraduate and graduate
9 students belong to the engineering and computing school; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the course of a half century, the
11 George R. Brown School of Engineering and Computing has provided a
12 number of students with a strong foundation on which to build
13 rewarding professional careers, and it is indeed worthy of special
14 recognition at this significant milestone in its history; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
17 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the
18 George R. Brown School of Engineering and Computing at Rice
19 University and extend to all those affiliated with the school
20 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for the George R. Brown School of Engineering and
23 Computing as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of
24 Representatives.