

By: Bettencourt, Kolckhorst

S.R. No. 368

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, John Sharp is retiring as chancellor of The Texas
2 A&M University System in 2025, following the longest tenure at the
3 helm in the institution's history; and

4 WHEREAS, Named chancellor in 2011, Mr. Sharp has transformed
5 the System, which has grown to include 11 universities and eight
6 state agencies, and his efforts have earned him a place alongside
7 such legendary Texas A&M leaders as Sul Ross and James Earl Rudder;
8 he has raised the national profile of the flagship institution in
9 College Station, which is now the nation's largest university with
10 more than 79,000 students; in 2013, the System acquired Texas
11 Wesleyan University's law school, which became the Texas A&M
12 University School of Law and climbed more than 100 places in just a
13 decade to rank 26th among the law programs in the country;
14 Chancellor Sharp oversaw nearly \$12 billion in construction and the
15 conversion of the Riverside Campus into Texas A&M-RELLIS, a
16 2,400-acre high-tech hub for defense research and testing;
17 moreover, he energized Aggie football with a nearly
18 half-billion-dollar expansion of Kyle Field and a move to the
19 Southeastern Conference; athletic facilities throughout the System
20 have been enhanced; and

21 WHEREAS, The System today has more than \$1 billion in
22 research expenditures, and Texas A&M University holds the No. 1
23 spot in engineering research expenditures; five of the System's
24 universities have been awarded Research 2 status by the Carnegie

1 Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, placing them
2 among an elite group of leading research institutions and
3 highlighting their commitment to innovation; the System has also
4 seen an exponential increase in the number of faculty members who
5 are members of the National Academies; and

6 WHEREAS, Addressing the state's increasing energy needs, the
7 System has announced plans to provide a platform for companies to
8 test the latest nuclear reactors for increased power supply;
9 further, the System continues to be part of the team that manages
10 the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico; in addition, it
11 was chosen in 2024 by the U.S. Department of Energy's National
12 Nuclear Security Administration as part of a group to manage and
13 operate the Pantex Plant, which maintains the nation's nuclear
14 weapons stockpile; and

15 WHEREAS, Chancellor Sharp brought to his role more than three
16 decades of experience in public office; he was elected to the Texas
17 House in 1978 and four years later, he won a seat in the Texas
18 Senate; subsequently, he was elected to the Texas Railroad
19 Commission and was twice elected state comptroller, a position in
20 which he created the Texas Performance Review, which identified and
21 enacted a savings of \$4 billion to the state, keeping Texans from
22 having to pay a state income tax; a TAMU graduate and student body
23 president, Mr. Sharp was a member of the Corps of Cadets staff and
24 served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve; while
25 employed by the Legislative Budget Board, he earned a master's
26 degree in public administration from Texas State University; he was
27 named a Distinguished Alumnus of TAMU in 2018; and

1 WHEREAS, Admired for his vision, dynamism, and unyielding
2 commitment to excellence, John Sharp has guided the Texas A&M
3 System through an era of tremendous progress, and his
4 accomplishments will yield ever-increasing benefits in the years to
5 come; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature
7 hereby honor John Sharp for his service as chancellor of The Texas
8 A&M University System and extend to him sincere best wishes for the
9 future; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for Chancellor Sharp as an expression of high regard by the
12 Texas Senate.