

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 624

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The students, faculty, and staff of Tyler Junior  
2 College are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the college's  
3 founding in 2026; and

4 WHEREAS, TJC traces its origins to September 17, 1926, when  
5 it began its inaugural school year with a class of 93 students; the  
6 college initially operated out of Tyler High School and offered  
7 courses in traditional liberal arts, public school music, and home  
8 economics; during its early years, the college established football  
9 and basketball teams, an outdoor recreation club, a campus  
10 newsletter, and the Las Mascaras drama club, which today has the  
11 distinction of being TJC's longest-running student organization;  
12 in addition, the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was  
13 chartered at the college in 1930, and it is now one of the oldest  
14 national honor society chapters in the nation; in 1945, voters in  
15 Tyler approved a measure to create a junior college district and  
16 establish a new campus for TJC; and

17 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the college has expanded to  
18 include two campuses in Tyler as well as locations in Lindale,  
19 Jacksonville, and Rusk; today, TJC serves more than 19,000 students  
20 each year, and it offers over 120 degree and certificate programs in  
21 fields such as health care, creative arts, communication,  
22 manufacturing, transportation, business, public service, and  
23 science and technology; during its spring 2025 commencement, the  
24 college awarded degrees and certificates to a record 1,689

1 graduates; and

2 WHEREAS, Students at TJC have the opportunity to participate  
3 in more than 40 clubs and organizations, including the Presidential  
4 Honors Program, Student Senate, Phi Theta Kappa, Hispanic Student  
5 Organization, Black Student Organization, Student Nurses  
6 Organization, TJC band program, and TJC Wind Ensemble; the college  
7 also boasts a highly accomplished athletics program, with nearly 70  
8 national championships; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, TJC has embraced a number of  
10 symbols to represent its fierce and enduring spirit; these include  
11 the Apache and the Harris's Hawk as well as the college's official  
12 mascot, Harry the Hawk, who was introduced in October 2022;  
13 moreover, generations of students have proudly participated in  
14 traditions such as the drumbeat, which is a collective effort to  
15 continuously keep a drum beating during homecoming week, and the  
16 Rim March, a performance by the Apache Band and Belles that takes  
17 place before football games; the college also commemorates special  
18 events and victories by lighting its iconic Ramey Tower in gold; and

19 WHEREAS, True to its mission, TJC seeks to provide a caring,  
20 comprehensive experience through educational excellence, stellar  
21 service, innovative programming, and authentic partnerships; among  
22 its many honors, the college was named one of the nation's top 150  
23 community colleges by the Aspen Institute College Excellence  
24 Program in 2017, and it earned Military Friendly Silver status for  
25 the 2025-2026 school year; and

26 WHEREAS, Over the past century, Tyler Junior College has  
27 provided students with a strong foundation on which to build

1 successful careers and fulfilling lives, and it is a privilege to  
2 join in recognizing the institution on this special milestone in  
3 its history; now, therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature  
5 hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of Tyler Junior College  
6 and extend to all those affiliated with the college sincere best  
7 wishes for the future; and, be it further

8       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
9 prepared for Tyler Junior College as an expression of high regard by  
10 the Texas Senate.