

# The State of Texas



## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, West Texas A&M University is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its merger with the Texas A&M University System in 2020, providing a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the rich history of this noteworthy institution; and

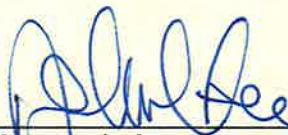
WHEREAS, Founded in Canyon as West Texas State Normal College in 1910, the school went through several name changes until it became West Texas State College in 1949; in 1988, an effort was initiated to merge the school with either the TAMU System or The University of Texas System, and with impressive support from the school's students and the residents of the Panhandle, it became the eighth member of the TAMU System on September 1, 1990; it officially changed its name to West Texas A&M University in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Since then, WTAMU has grown and prospered, and by the fall of 2019, enrollment had exceeded 10,000 students; the First United Bank Center sports arena and performance space was dedicated in 2002, and in 2006, the Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex was opened; three new residence halls have been built since 2006, and in 2007, the Stanley Schaeffer Agriculture Education Learning Lab was completed; the Buffalo Sports Park became a new addition to the campus in 2010, and the Happy State Bank Academic and Research Building for the Paul Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences was opened in the fall of 2018; the following year, the Harrington Academic Hall at the Amarillo Center was dedicated, and the Texas A&M University System announced a partnership with WTAMU to build the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and the Veterinary Education, Research, and Outreach complexes on the WTAMU campus; and

WHEREAS, Over the past three decades, WTAMU established the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the School of Music, the Department of Engineering and Computer Science, and the Center for Learning Disabilities, as well as new programs in agricultural media and in civil and environmental engineering, master's degree programs in education and social work, and doctoral degree programs in agriculture and educational leadership; additionally, the 2+2 program was announced to allow A&M veterinary students to begin their first two years of medical training at WTAMU; and

WHEREAS, For 110 years, WTAMU has helped equip its students with the knowledge and skills to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future, and in so doing, it has made an invaluable contribution to higher education and to the West Texas region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 30th anniversary of the merger of West Texas A&M University with the Texas A&M University System be commemorated and that all those associated with the university be extended sincere best wishes for continued success.



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John Smithee  
State Representative  
District 86