

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6035

A RESOLUTION honoring Pittsburg State University President Tom Bryant.

WHEREAS, Tom Bryant joined Pittsburg State University in 1970 as an Associate Professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) before being named Chairman of the Department in 1985. In 1992, Dr. Bryant was named Acting Dean of the School of Education while continuing to serve as chairman of HPER before being appointed Dean of the School of Education in 1993; and

WHEREAS, He served as interim executive director of the Kansas Board of Regents, where he was involved in the state legislature's efforts to reorganize the state's higher education governance structure in addition to being involved in promoting an initiative to enhance faculty salaries; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, Dr. Bryant assumed the interim Presidency of Pittsburg State at a crossroads in the institution's history and during which time, he secured the funding necessary to complete the Kansas Technology Center; and

WHEREAS, After serving the university and the state in these two separate but demanding interim roles, Dr. Tom Bryant was selected by the Kansas Board of Regents as the eighth president of Pittsburg State University, assuming office on July 1, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant presided over record-setting enrollment growth with particular emphasis towards on-campus, full-time students; and

WHEREAS, He led the university in providing better access to educational opportunity by doubling scholarships for students and to academic excellence as demonstrated by national and international accreditations for programs in each of the university's colleges; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant directed a campus wide effort at internationalization that was recognized in 2008 with the Senator Paul Simon Award for campus internationalization; and

WHEREAS, He guided the university through a robust strategic planning process that led to an unprecedented time of campus growth and expansion marked by the construction of many new buildings, the modernization of existing and historic buildings and creative partnerships between the university and other enterprises to build and maximize the use of other facilities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant directed a significant enhancement of the physical campus environment through the installation of multiple outdoor sculptures and art work and the creation of outdoor gathering places; and

WHEREAS, He initiated a robust campus wide effort to assess and improve safety that includes improved lighting, multiple emergency communication structures, planning and training; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant led an effort at community and alumni engagement that inspired the National Collegiate Athletic Association to profile Pittsburg State University as an example for other Division II universities to emulate; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant would always work with anyone and any group that wanted to strengthen Pittsburg State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant's retirement comes after 39 years of devoted service to the Pittsburg State University family, a contribution that has been invaluable to its success: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we honor and thank Dr. Tom Bryant for his contributions to Pittsburg State University and its students, faculty, administration, alumni, parents, supporters and to the entire state of Kansas.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*