

MINUTES

OF THE

SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

OF

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

JANUARY 6, 1997

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**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
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Ms. Mary Nan West, Chairman of the Board of Regents, convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System on Monday, January 6, 1997, at 10:03 a.m., in the Board of Regents Meeting Room, on the campus of Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

The following members of the Board were telephonically present:

Ms. Mary Nan West, Chairman
Mr. T. Michael O'Connor, Vice Chairman
Mr. Robert H. Allen
Ms. Alison Brisco
Mr. John H. Lindsey
Mr. Frederick D. McClure
Mr. Don Powell
Ms. M. Guadalupe L. Rangel

The following member of the Board was not present:

Mr. Royce E. Wisenbaker

Ms. West said the purpose of the special meeting was to adopt a resolution expressing appreciation to Congressman Kika de la Garza. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**01-97**  
*(Item 1)*

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION  
TO CONGRESSMAN KIKA DE LA GARZA  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Ms. Rangel, seconded by Mr. McClure and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

*(Secretary's Note: Ms. West called the roll to take the vote on this item.)*

Whereas, The Honorable Kika de la Garza has served Texas and the nation with distinction, most notably as Representative for the 15th District of Texas to the Congress of the United States; and

**(01-97 continued)**

Whereas, Congressman de la Garza's distinguished career also includes military service in World War II and the Korean War, law practice in the Rio Grande Valley and public service in the Texas House of Representatives for six years; and

Whereas, the Congressman from South Texas was elected initially to his present office in 1965 and was re-elected to 15 consecutive two-year terms in the United States House of Representatives; and

Whereas, he has the distinction of being a man of many firsts, including the first Hispanic to chair a major Congressional committee, the first member of Congress to send weekly newsletters to constituents and media, the first to produce radio reports in English and Spanish and the first to receive the distinguished Aztec award, Mexico's top award given to a citizen of another country; and

Whereas, as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture for 14 years, he supported legislation for three omnibus farm bills, an overhaul of the agricultural lending system, Federal Crop Insurance program reforms, pesticide law reforms, reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, colonias grants and numerous other measures to assist American agricultural production and development; and

Whereas, Congressman de la Garza has provided valuable assistance to The Texas A&M University System, as exemplified by his instrumental role in obtaining support for funding numerous research grants in the areas of dairy goat research, alternative crops for arid lands, livestock and dairy policy, regional implications of farm programs, wool and mohair research and honey bee research; and

Whereas, as a strong advocate for agriculture in the lower Rio Grande Valley, the Congressman was instrumental in gaining federal support for research and extension programs at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the USDA Subtropical Agricultural Research Laboratory at Weslaco; and

Whereas, his leadership and support also aided in establishing the Center for North American Studies, and funding for the Institute of Biosciences and Technology and the Center for Southern Crop Improvement; and

Whereas, as a friend and supporter of Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Congressman de la Garza was instrumental in gaining funds for agricultural projects such as citrus tree insurance, arid land plant research and animal damage control initiatives; and

Whereas, in partial recognition of his support, the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center was named in his honor on the Texas A&M University-Kingsville campus; and  
**(01-97 continued)**

Whereas, as a friend of Prairie View A&M University, Congressman de la Garza led the effort to get support for three agricultural research facilities and continuation of specialized research at the International Dairy Goat Research Center; and

Whereas, he was instrumental in establishing the first cooperative agreement between Texas A&M University and Charles University, the principal institution for higher education in the Czech Republic; and

Whereas, Congressman de la Garza will be retiring to private life in January of 1997; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System expresses its deepest gratitude to Congressman de la Garza for his service to his state and nation; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes, and copies thereof, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents, be presented to Congressman de la Garza and to the archives of Texas A&M University as an expression of appreciation and respect for Congressman de la Garza and as a means of wishing him well in his endeavors.

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There being no further business, Ms. West adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m., the same day.

Vickie Burt
Executive Secretary to the Board
The Texas A&M University System

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