

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Office of the Board of Regents

May 9, 2023

Members, Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Honoring Regent Clifton L. Thomas, Jr. for His Outstanding Dedication and Service as a Member of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System and Bestowing the Title of Chairman Emeritus, BOR, A&M System

Approval of the following resolution honoring Regent Cliff Thomas by the Board of Regents is recommended:

“WHEREAS, Mr. Clifton L. Thomas, Jr. graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor’s degree in 1972; where he was a lineman for the Texas A&M Aggie Football team; and

WHEREAS, he is co-owner and Chairman of the Board of Managers of Pilot Thomas Logistics; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas is owner and founder of Speedy Stop Food Stores and C.L. Thomas Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas has served on the Board of Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, DeTar Hospital System and Wells Fargo Bank and was reappointed to serve his second three-year term on the board of The University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Company (UTIMCO); and

WHEREAS, he chaired the search committee for the new President of Texas A&M University, in 2014 - 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2022. This award recognizes Aggies who have achieved excellence in their chosen professions and have made meaningful contributions to Texas A&M University and their local communities; and

WHEREAS, he was awarded the Letterman’s Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021 for his accomplishments and worthy endeavors after his graduation from Texas A&M University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas served with distinction for two, six-year terms, having been appointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2011, and reappointed by Governor Greg Abbott in 2017; and

WHEREAS, he served as Vice Chairman of the Board from 2013 to 2015, and served as Chairman of the Board from 2015 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas provided outstanding leadership while serving as Chairman of the Committee on Audit, Committee on Academic and Student Affairs and the Policy Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his service on the Board of Regents, Mr. Thomas served as a member of the Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant, Committee on Finance and served as liaison to the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation; and

WHEREAS, during his term, student enrollment at The Texas A&M University System institutions grew to more than 152,000; and

WHEREAS, The Texas A&M University System's budget grew to \$7.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, during this time, research and development expenditures across The Texas A&M University System came to exceed \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Texas A&M University completed a two-year, \$485 million renovation of Kyle Field, one of the largest stadiums in the nation; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, the Board of Regents approved a \$550 million complex in the Texas Medical Center for the EnMed initiative, an integrated educational and research medical school with a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, and part of the Texas A&M University College of Medicine's MD Program and the College of Engineering, in collaboration with Houston Methodist Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas provided leadership and vision since 2021 for the creation of Texas A&M-Fort Worth, which will bring a Tier One institution of higher education to Fort Worth and expand the reach and influence of The Texas A&M University System to North Texas; and

WHEREAS, in October 2018, Texas A&M University dedicated the Multipurpose Academic Building and the McAllen Higher Education Center, a branch of Texas A&M University in McAllen; and

WHEREAS, also in 2018, The Texas A&M University System broke ground on the new, 2,000-acre RELLIS (Respect, Excellence, Leadership, Loyalty, Integrity, Selfless Service) Campus at the Riverside Campus in Bryan. RELLIS Campus, partnering with Blinn College, is a premier, high-tech research, technology development and education campus; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, The Texas A&M University System and the U.S. Army Futures Command announced an agreement to advance national defense that led to construction of the \$200 million, Bush Combat Development Complex, which will bring top U.S. researchers to the RELLIS Campus to develop modern military equipment at the Innovation Proving Ground, Research Integration Center and the nation's largest enclosed hypersonic testing range, a highly instrumented, kilometer-long tunnel called BAM; and

WHEREAS, also during Mr. Thomas' tenure, the 86th Legislature passed legislation to transfer the Texas Division of Emergency Management to The Texas A&M University System as the eighth state agency to improve the state's response to natural disasters; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, express our deepest gratitude and respect for his distinguished service; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that in honor of his esteemed service to the Board of Regents, the title of Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System is hereby bestowed upon Mr. Clifton L. Thomas, Jr. with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be included in the minutes, with official copies thereof signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents, and presented to Mr. Clifton L. Thomas, Jr. and to the Archives of The Texas A&M University System, as a permanent mark of this Board of Regents' appreciation and gratitude for all that he has done for The Texas A&M University System and for the state of Texas.

ADOPTED, this 18th day of May 2023.”

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Mahomes  
Chairman, Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

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Ray Bonilla  
General Counsel