

HJR257 INTRODUCED



1 HJR257
2 4U7HSRR-1
3 By Representatives Whitt, Reynolds, Rigsby, Lomax, Daniels,
4 Hall, Lands, Moore (P)
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 17-Mar-26



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HJR___ CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. CHARLES L. KARR UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

WHEREAS, it is with profound appreciation and deepest admiration that we celebrate Dr. Charles L. Karr for more than 30 distinguished years in higher education, including 26 years at The University of Alabama, where he served as Dean of the College of Engineering before leading The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) as interim president and then President since September 2022; we also take this opportunity to heartily congratulate him upon his upcoming retirement, effective in May 2026; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Karr's retirement concludes a transformative tenure defined by visionary leadership, deepened community engagement, and the creation of a dynamic campus atmosphere; he first joined UAH as interim president in November 2021 and was named President the following year; in that time, he has helped to advance UAH's academic mission, strengthen its research enterprise, expand facilities, and champion student success; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Karr's leadership, UAH has initiated major capital projects that will transform the campus; the university broke ground and is nearing completion of the Raymond B. Jones Engineering Building, and renovations will soon begin on the Bevill Center, enhancing



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29 the Center for Cybersecurity Research, Education, and
30 Advanced Training; the campus will also start construction
31 of a new Track and Field Complex, and critical funding was
32 secured to develop the former Executive Plaza site; and

33 WHEREAS, during Dr. Karr's tenure, UAH achieved
34 Top-10 federally funded national rankings in four research
35 areas for the 12th consecutive year; the annual research and
36 development expenditures topped nearly \$640 million within
37 the last five years; of particular note, UAH made a major
38 impact in the weather industry through becoming home to the
39 largest mobile weather radar facility in the country; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Karr's presidency is held in high regard
41 for his ability to reinvigorate Huntsville's connection to
42 UAH; he was pivotal in the establishment of the Air
43 Force/Space Force ROTC operating location; Dr. Karr has
44 graciously welcomed international dignitaries, researchers,
45 and industry leaders to campus to foster collaboration; his
46 community engagement efforts are one of his hallmark
47 accomplishments, especially enhancing relationships with
48 Redstone Arsenal, Cummings Research Park, business,
49 education, and health care sectors; and

50 WHEREAS, a passionate advocate for student
51 recruitment, Dr. Karr's efforts have contributed to
52 record-setting, high-achieving freshman classes in Fall 2024
53 and 2025, with average GPAs of 3.97 and ACT scores of 27;
54 UAH also garnered national recognition for its Colleges of
55 Business, Engineering, and Nursing; and

56 WHEREAS, Dr. Karr supervised a renewed emphasis on



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57 athletics and student life at UAH; the university earned
58 multiple Gulf South Conference championships, and a
59 successful athletic logo rebranding was launched to
60 modernize the Chargers' visual identity; he has nurtured a
61 warm and vibrant campus life through enthusiastically
62 participating in student events, from hitting fly balls to
63 the baseball team to cheering on the Space Hardware Club at
64 NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge; and

65 WHEREAS, Dr. Karr's unprecedented successes have
66 earned numerous awards, including induction into the State
67 of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame; he has also served on
68 various local and state boards, making a significant impact;
69 the UAH and UAH Foundation's endowment crossed the \$100
70 million threshold during his presidency; and

71 WHEREAS, under Dr. Karr's leadership, UAH has
72 strengthened its identity as a research and academic
73 powerhouse and a critical asset to regional and national
74 success; he and his wife, Jodie, have made a noteworthy mark
75 on the Huntsville community and, upon retirement, they will
76 live in Florida; now therefore,

77 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
78 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby most highly
79 commend Dr. Charles L. Karr for more than three decades of
80 faithful devotion to higher education and for his steadfast
81 commitment as President of The University of Alabama in
82 Huntsville, and we extend to him our heartfelt gratitude and
83 sincere best wishes for continued health, happiness, and
84 fulfillment in his future endeavors.