MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR JAMES HEMPHILL WALKER

WHEREAS, on Saturday, June 14, 1947, Texas lost one of her most distinguished and beloved citizens in the death of the Honorable James Hemphill Walker, of Austin, the day before his 87th birthday, thereby ending a brilliant and noble career of nearly a half century of public service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker was born of a pioneer Texas family at Grandview in Johnson County on June 15, 1860, and after attending the public schools, graduated from Mansfield College, thereafter teaching school for several years, and on October 6, 1881, he married the daughter of another pioneer Texas family, Miss Nancy Rush Gathings, who was born in Hill County, Texas, on December 30, 1866, and died March 22, 1944, but prior to her death they celebrated their sixtieth anniversary of marital happiness and fidelity on October 6, 1941; of this marriage six sons were born: I. A. Walker and Gathings Walker, both now deceased; Mills Prentice Walker, of Bryan, Texas; Philip Rush Walker, of Fort Worth, Texas, Solon M. Walker, of San Antonio, Texas; and Hamilton Smith Walker, of Austin, Texas; and

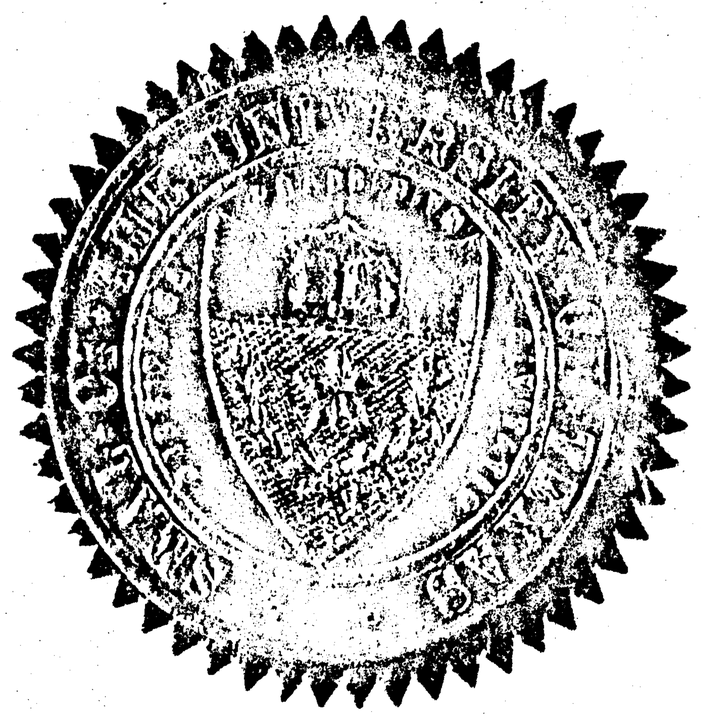
WHEREAS, he served the people of this State with honor and distinction, being employed in the General Land Office of Texas as Spanish Translator from January 17, 1899 to December 1, 1900, when he became Chief Clerk in the office of the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, serving in that capacity from January 17, 1901, until March 3, 1903, when he became Assistant to the Manager of the Texas Prison System on March 3, 1903, which position he held until March 7, 1907, when he returned to the General Land Office as Legal Examiner, becoming Chief Clerk on January 17, 1909, by appointment of the late J. T. Robison, then Land Commissioner, and upon the death of Mr. Robison, Mr. Walker was appointed by Governor Dan Moody to fill the unexpired term, and he was consistently re-elected to that office until April 1936, when he announced that he would no longer seek election to public office, and after serving out his term as Land Commissioner on January 11, 1937, he became Land Officer of The University of Texas, and served in this position until his death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker was a man of quiet dignity, unyielding in principle and devotion to the duties of citizenship,

and he passes from the scene less widely known than he might have been except for his modesty, and the State has lost another member from its fast dwindling ranks of pioneers who have made Texas great, and our citizenship has lost a friend and a valuable citizen whose memory shall not be dimmed by time, but rather will serve to enlarge the stature of a good and great man whose loyalty, sincerity, integrity, patience, simplicity, and straightforwardness endeared him to his associates, his friends, and his loved ones; and

WHEREAS, feeble words cannot add to his stature, but it is the desire of the Faculty and Administrative Staff of The University of Texas to pay tribute to such a man and to express heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family, therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Faculty Council of The University of Texas, that we acknowledge the loss of this outstanding public servant, and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Faculty Council to serve in some measure the acknowledgment of the debt all Texas owes and the tribute we pay to a fine and true citizen and public official, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of his bereaved family.



Theophilus S. Painter

Theophilus S. Painter, President

Milton R. Gutsch

Milton R. Gutsch, Secretary
The General Faculty