

House Resolution 1340

By: Representatives Casas of the 103rd, Teasley of the 38th, Coleman of the 97th, Rogers of the 26th, Scott of the 2nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Luther Rice Seminary and University on the occasion of its
2 50th anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Luther Rice Seminary and University provides theological education for
4 Christian ministers and leaders around the world with an end to granting undergraduate and
5 graduate degrees; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Gee Witty, Pastor of the Central Baptist Church, presented the need
7 for a seminary in Jacksonville, Florida, to several Southern Baptist pastors in 1961; and

8 WHEREAS, in May of 1962, Dr. Witty prepared a charter application and was able to
9 secure five pastors to sign it and on June 14, 1962, the State of Florida granted the charter;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the first classes met in facilities provided by the church on September 11, 1962,
12 and all of the faculty were Southern Baptist pastors who served without getting paid; and

13 WHEREAS, 94 students had registered in 1964, and 16 pastors served as part-time faculty;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Clyde Jones, Dr. Pat Wimberly, and Dr. Kenneth Umphrey served as
16 part-time presidents until 1968, and Dr. Witty became the first full-time president in 1970;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. James L. Flanagan joined the institution in 1982, serving first as a faculty
19 member, then as vice president for academic affairs, and later as the institution's fourth
20 president; and

21 WHEREAS, the innovative, nontraditional curriculum attracted thousands of students in the
22 United States and such international interest that by 1978 students from 52 countries were
23 registered; and

24 WHEREAS, from a culturally diverse student body to an academically diverse faculty,
25 Luther Rice Seminary and University continues to operate on the cutting edge in offering a
26 theologically sound, biblically based, technologically advanced education to students around
27 the world.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body commend Luther Rice Seminary and University on its
30 contributions to furthering education and extend congratulations on the occasion of its 50th
31 anniversary.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Luther Rice Seminary and
34 University.