

# The State of Texas



## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Big Bertha, one of the largest drums in the world, is being retired by The University of Texas Longhorn Band on the occasion of its 100th birthday in October 2022; and


WHEREAS, Created in 1922 by the C. G. Conn Music Company of Elkhart, Indiana, Big Bertha is a bass drum weighing 500 pounds and measuring 8 feet in diameter and 25 feet in circumference; it was originally designed for the University of Chicago Maroon Marching Band and was named after the booming Big Bertha howitzer used by the German army during World War I; when the university discontinued athletics in 1939, Big Bertha was put into storage in Stagg Field House, where it was irradiated by the world's first nuclear reactor, which was built in the field house by the Manhattan Project during World War II; after it was determined that the drum was not dangerously radioactive, it was returned to the Conn Music Company in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Eight years later, UT band director Moton Crockett Jr. was in search of a giant bass drum for the Longhorn Band, so he bought Big Bertha for a dollar and towed it back to Texas on a trailer behind his Ford Fairlane; after reconditioning, Big Bertha went on to perform with the Longhorn Band for 67 years, cared for by the Bertha Crew and representing The University of Texas at countless football games, parades, concerts, and special events; known as the Sweetheart of the Showband of the Southwest, the instrument appeared in four national championship bowl games, as well as the inauguration parade of President John F. Kennedy in 1961, the 2005 and 2006 Tournament of Roses Parades, and the 2015 New Year's Day Parade in London; in its centennial year, Big Bertha is retiring to a place of honor in the UT Athletics Hall of Fame in the Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, Big Bertha has delighted and inspired generations of Longhorn fans, cementing its place in the annals of UT history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the retirement and 100th birthday of Big Bertha be commemorated and that all those associated with the drum's continuing care be extended sincere best wishes for success in their important work.



  
Gina Hinojosa  
State Representative  
District 49