

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The football team from the Texas School for the Deaf
2 in Austin closed out an unforgettable season by capturing the Texas
3 Association of Private and Parochial Schools Six-Man Division I
4 state championship on December 11, 2020; and

5 WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, TSD was forced to
6 switch from 11-man to six-man football for the first time in its
7 history during 2020; undeterred, the Rangers claimed the TAPPS
8 District 5 title and then maintained their momentum in the
9 playoffs; they defeated Logos Preparatory Academy before knocking
10 off San Marcos Academy to advance to the state title contest; and

11 WHEREAS, Matching up against the previously unbeaten squad
12 from Veritas Academy in the finale, TSD took an early 22-8 lead in
13 the first quarter and never looked back; when the final seconds
14 ticked away, the Rangers brought the year to a triumphant end with a
15 63-32 victory, earning the first football state championship in the
16 164-year history of the school; and

17 WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the TSD players was the
18 result of an exceptional team effort, with valuable contributions
19 being made by each member of the roster; a total of eight players
20 received All-District honors, and Jordan Leeper, Zarek Nathanson,
21 and Russell Rohde were honored by the *Austin American-Statesman* for
22 their exceptional efforts in the championship game; the Rangers
23 were guided throughout their winning season by head coach John
24 Moore Jr. and assistant coaches Joshua Moore, Harvey Nathanson, and

1 Al Reins; and

2 WHEREAS, Demonstrating inspiring perseverance during a
3 season that was nearly cancelled because of the pandemic, the TSD
4 team earned national attention from such media outlets as NBC's
5 *Today* show and ESPN's *SportsCenter*; the Rangers' achievement was
6 all the more special in that it marked a new level of football
7 success for an institution that is considered one of the oldest
8 continually operating public schools in Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, Winning a state championship is a daunting task that
10 requires countless hours of hard work and an unwavering commitment
11 to excellence, and the members of the Texas School for the Deaf
12 football team may take justifiable pride in their historic
13 accomplishments on the gridiron; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate the Texas School for the Deaf
16 football team on winning the 2020 TAPPS Six-Man Division I state
17 championship and extend to the team's players, coaches, and staff
18 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for the team as an expression of high regard by the Texas
21 House of Representatives.

Rodriguez

H.R. No. 192

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 192 was adopted by the House on March 18, 2021, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House