

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Books Are GEMS nonprofit bookstore has provided
2 an invaluable service to the young readers of El Paso during the
3 COVID-19 pandemic, and it is truly deserving of special
4 recognition; and

5 WHEREAS, Established to inspire children through reading and
6 to empower families through literacy, Books Are GEMS offers free
7 books to youth in El Paso County, southern New Mexico, and at Fort
8 Bliss; in addition to its store on North Loop Drive, it also works
9 with school districts, community groups, and local partners such as
10 the Lion's Club and the El Paso Rotary Club to furnish books to
11 children and families who are not able to reach its El Paso
12 location; and

13 WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 crisis, the bookstore launched
14 its "Grab a Bag of Books" program, with each child in a family
15 receiving a bag containing one new book and several gently used
16 volumes sorted by grade level and gender; since the start of the
17 pandemic, more than 5,000 families have visited the store, and from
18 July 2020 to March 2021, over 20,000 free books were distributed to
19 area youth; and

20 WHEREAS, By fostering a love of reading and learning, Books
21 Are GEMS is opening a world of opportunity to a new generation of
22 readers, and its extra efforts over the past year have provided both
23 entertainment and enlightenment to countless young people during a
24 difficult time; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
2 Legislature hereby commend Books Are GEMS for its contributions
3 during the COVID-19 pandemic and extend to all those associated
4 with the nonprofit sincere best wishes for continued success; and,
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
8 Texas House of Representatives.

Fierro

H.R. No. 887

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 887 was adopted by the House on May 8, 2021, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House