

By: Baxter

H.R. No. 129

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Lance Armstrong has joined the ranks of the truly
2 legendary cyclists with his fifth consecutive victory in the Tour
3 de France, defeating the sport's elite yet again in the world's most
4 physically and mentally challenging sporting event; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Plano and a proud Texan, Mr. Armstrong
6 makes his home in Austin when not training abroad or competing on
7 the professional cycling circuit; his most recent tour de force in
8 the Tour de France places him in the company of renowned cyclists
9 Jacques Anquetil, Bernard Hinault, Eddy Merckx, and Miguel
10 Indurain, all five-time winners of the so-called "Super Bowl of
11 Cycling"; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Armstrong's brilliant cycling career has
13 captured the attention and imagination of countless fans throughout
14 the world thanks largely to his remarkable success in Le Tour; his
15 well-known battle against cancer and his subsequent defeat of the
16 deadly disease have made him a role model for the cancer community
17 and beyond, and his return to dominance in professional cycling has
18 only added to the dramatic and inspirational story of his
19 miraculous recovery; and

20 WHEREAS, A naturally gifted athlete with an unquenchable
21 competitive thirst, Mr. Armstrong became a professional triathlete
22 at the age of 16, although he soon realized that his future in
23 competitive sports would focus on his cycling prowess; in 1989 he
24 qualified for the junior world championships in Moscow, and two

1 years later he became the U.S. National Amateur Champion; and

2 WHEREAS, After competing in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, he
3 began his professional career inauspiciously with a last-place
4 finish in the 1992 Classico San Sebastian; despite finishing 27
5 minutes behind the winner of the rain-soaked race, Mr. Armstrong
6 displayed the tenacious attitude that has become perhaps his most
7 enduring and endearing characteristic; and

8 WHEREAS, The following year saw him reach his seemingly
9 limitless potential as he captured 10 titles, including the U.S.
10 Pro Championship; the year 1993 also featured Mr. Armstrong's first
11 stage victory in the Tour de France as well as his establishment as
12 the youngest road racing world champion; additional successes would
13 quickly follow, including victories in the 1994 TDS Classic and the
14 1995 Tour Du Pont, yet his most challenging adversary was quietly
15 lurking, waiting to unseat the talented cyclist; and

16 WHEREAS, His shocking diagnosis of cancer took a toll on Mr.
17 Armstrong, physically, mentally, and emotionally, causing him to
18 reevaluate his life and his purpose as he struggled to beat the
19 advanced testicular cancer that had spread to his lungs and his
20 brain; with the help of a dedicated team of physicians and nurses,
21 as well as the support of his family and friends, he underwent
22 surgery and a series of aggressive treatments that successfully
23 eradicated the cancerous cells; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Armstrong's determined recovery from the
25 invasive surgeries and intense chemotherapy left him profoundly
26 changed, and he has dedicated himself to using his experience to
27 help others by becoming a spokesperson for the fight against

1 cancer; the Austin-based Lance Armstrong Foundation is the world
2 leader in the concept of "cancer survivorship," and the money
3 raised through this commendable organization continues to benefit
4 those who have been stricken with cancer and those who have overcome
5 the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Although Mr. Armstrong considers his defeat of
7 cancer to be his greatest victory, his efforts in the Tour de France
8 are certainly worthy of high praise; to win this grueling
9 three-week road race once was a significant accomplishment, but to
10 win it five consecutive times is a truly monumental achievement,
11 particularly in light of the obstacles and ordeals that he has
12 overcome; and

13 WHEREAS, Cancer survivor, husband, father, son, Olympian,
14 humanitarian, and champion, Lance Armstrong is each of these, and
15 his recovery from the ravages of cancer and his subsequent return to
16 the pinnacle of cycling success remains one of the most compelling
17 and emotional stories of recent memory; he is a guiding light for
18 countless individuals, and his message of determination, hope, and
19 perseverance will continue to inspire people from all walks of
20 life; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
22 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby congratulate Lance
23 Armstrong on capturing his fifth consecutive Tour de France title
24 and extend to him best wishes as he pursues an unprecedented sixth
25 Tour de France victory; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Mr. Armstrong as an expression of high regard by the

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1 Texas House of Representatives.