

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 178

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Kerrville branch of Big Brothers Big Sisters  
2 (BBBS) is celebrating that commendable organization's 100th  
3 anniversary in 2004; and

4           WHEREAS, To meet the needs of at-risk youth in Kerr County, a  
5 satellite office was opened in Kerrville in 1996 by the Alamo Area  
6 BBBS, one of 490 BBBS affiliates in the nation; six years later, the  
7 Kerrville branch initiated a High School Bigs program in which high  
8 school juniors and seniors, or Bigs, provide elementary student  
9 Littles with one-on-one time and attention once a week during the  
10 academic year; this exemplary program allows the high school  
11 participant to experience the joy and life-changing power of  
12 service and provides the younger student the opportunity to connect  
13 with a role model close to his or her own age; and

14           WHEREAS, The oldest youth mentoring organization in the  
15 United States, BBBS was founded in 1904, when Ernest Coulter, a New  
16 York City court clerk, grew increasingly distressed by the  
17 suffering and misery of the thousands of children who came through  
18 the city's court system; he appeared before a group of civic and  
19 business leaders and succeeded in motivating 40 influential men to  
20 volunteer their time to mentor the city's delinquent youth, thereby  
21 forming New York Big Brothers, which would later become Big  
22 Brothers Big Sisters of America; and

23           WHEREAS, Today, the organization serves more than 200,000  
24 youth from ages five through 18 in 5,000 communities across all 50

1 states, making it the largest youth mentoring organization in the  
2 country; national research has shown that the positive  
3 relationships formed between Big Brothers and Big Sisters and their  
4 Littles have a direct, measurable, and lasting impact on children's  
5 lives; statistics demonstrate that Little Brothers and Sisters are  
6 less likely to use illegal drugs, consume alcohol, skip school, or  
7 engage in acts of violence, and that they develop greater  
8 self-esteem and increased confidence in their schoolwork  
9 performance and are able to get along better with their families and  
10 friends; and

11 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters is commemorating its 100th  
12 anniversary by partnering with Yahoo! in reuniting former Big and  
13 Little Brothers and Sisters; encouraging former Bigs and Littles to  
14 submit personal stories about their past experiences in the  
15 program, the BBBS plans to publish a selection of those  
16 inspirational stories in a 2004 centennial book, *100 Great Stories*  
17 *from the First 100 Years*; kicking off the organization's centennial  
18 activities in January 2004 with National Mentoring Month, BBBS is  
19 championing its vision of providing mentoring services for one  
20 million at-risk children by 2010; and

21 WHEREAS, The well-being of our youth is something in which  
22 all Texans have a stake, and because of the important work of the  
23 BBBS branch in Kerrville and all of the BBBS affiliates located  
24 throughout the state and nation, children are given the support and  
25 encouragement that help them to achieve success and happiness; now,  
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas

1 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby commend Big Brothers Big  
2 Sisters for its outstanding service to our nation's youth for the  
3 past 100 years and extend to all the individuals associated with the  
4 organization's Kerrville branch deep appreciation for their  
5 exemplary community service; and, be it further

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