

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 424

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the German exchange students from Gymnasium Oberhaching, a high school located near Munich, Germany, and to welcome them to the State Capitol on April 8, 2003; and

WHEREAS, The exchange students will be in Austin for a three-week stay to visit Bowie High School students who are studying German; the Bowie High School students will then have the pleasure of staying with their German visitors for three weeks in June; the exchanges have been sponsored since 1989 by Bowie High School German teacher Miriam "Mimi" Parris; and

WHEREAS, The student exchanges are arranged through the German-American Partnership Program, which is affiliated with the Goethe Institute, an international organization that promotes the teaching of German and German culture; over 720 partnerships presently exist between American and German high schools, and more than 160,000 students have visited one another since 1982; and

WHEREAS, Since its creation in 1977, the German-American Partnership Program has greatly helped to promote German language instruction in our nation's high schools and has deepened the participants' understanding of the host country's culture and way of life; and

WHEREAS, Gymnasium Oberhaching students have demonstrated a keen interest in our country and in the unique experience that is Texas; the exchange students this year are Alena Pistele, Claudia Gernegross, Franziska Zehndbauer, Sarah Gunther,

Sonja Lenzer, Barbara Niedermeier, Tanja Niedernhuber, Raina Willi, Josephine Wittkowski, Michael Balszun, Alexander Schroth, Roland Ettinger, Richard Hochster, and Mathias Marschner; and

WHEREAS, Teacher sponsors Babette Rupp and Ludwig Pichler have helped their students to prepare for their visit; and

WHEREAS, The exchange program is a rewarding experience for all who participate in it, and students from both high schools will undoubtedly benefit from the cultural education they receive; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby join Bowie High School in welcoming the Gymnasium Oberhaching students and teachers to Austin and extend best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit to our State Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for our German visitors as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Barrientos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 24, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate