

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 647

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize a group of outstanding young people who have been selected as Young Texas Heroes and to proclaim April 22, 2003, as Young Heroes Day; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club District 5870 has selected four outstanding young citizens to honor as Young Texas Heroes; these individuals have excelled in academics, and they have made a difference in their community; they have overcome adversity and have inspired others through their deeds and strength of character; and

WHEREAS, Zana Gardner, age 17, has overcome personal adversity to earn honor roll grades at Lanier High School in Austin; one of six children in a single-parent home, she participates in a multitude of student activities while holding down two jobs to help support her family; once labeled an at-risk student, she is now a counselor to teenage girls; due to her perseverance, her academic excellence, and her diligence, Zana is well on her way to becoming the first member of her family to attend college and to fulfill her dream of becoming a social worker dedicated to helping abused children; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Hawkins, age 17, is a student at Yoakum High School in Yoakum; he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when he was one year old; undaunted by his physical challenges, Jon maintains a 3.6 grade point average, plays the trumpet with his school's marching and jazz bands, serves on the student council, and works as a reporter for the school's newspaper; Jon has a particular interest in coaching for the Special Olympics; this year Jon trained a fifth-grade student with muscular dystrophy who won two gold medals in this highly regarded athletic competition; Jonathan's peers admire and respect him for his tenacity and for the inspiration and encouragement he gives to others; and

WHEREAS, Kristina Kelley, age 16, is a student at Smithville High School in Smithville; this young hero has overcome personal family problems to excel in her daily life; she is equally devoted to service to her school, to her community, and to her studies; Kristina has dedicated more than 250 hours of her time to various community service projects, and she is a member of her award-winning high school band; she participates in the Peer Assisted Leadership Program, where she helps children to cope with the challenges of growing up; she is ranked seventh academically in her class, is an award-winning debater, and has been the recipient of a Law Enforcement Service Award; and

WHEREAS, William Barton, age 17, attends Groesbeck High School in Groesbeck; as a Groesbeck Goat football player, William suffered a major injury during a game with Lorena High School; he underwent two separate surgeries that resulted in the amputation

of one of his legs below the knee; when friends reached out to console him, they found a young man at peace with himself, who felt no rancor toward the player who caused his injury; to the contrary, William had accepted the risks he had taken as an athlete; he is a shining example of courage and a model of strength of character to others; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club District 5870 has also given special recognition to five other young people who have demonstrated the characteristics of a hero; these young people are Michael Olson, age 10, of Round Rock; Princeton Howell, age 10, of Killeen; Eric Levels, age 18, of Mexia; Lindsey Carmichael, age 17, of Lago Vista; and Jessica Gardner, age 14, of Harker Heights; and

WHEREAS, These remarkable young citizens have brought much honor to themselves, their families, their schools, their communities, and their state, and all Texans should take great pride in their accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend these exemplary young Texans on their exceptional courage and achievements and extend best wishes to them for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Wentworth

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 22, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate