

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 300

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Too often our everyday heroes are overlooked or
2 overshadowed by the famous or infamous, although there is little
3 doubt that these individuals exist in our neighborhoods, churches,
4 and homes, and it is indeed fulfilling and affirming to have the
5 opportunity to recognize one such hero; and

6 WHEREAS, On a recent trip to Mexico, potential tragedy was
7 averted for a Texas teen and her family when 14-year-old Garrett
8 Mullen of Dallas saved his future stepsister, Whitney Alexander,
9 from drowning in a secluded swimming hole near Cancun; and

10 WHEREAS, Demonstrating remarkable bravery and sense of
11 purpose, Garrett sprang into action after Whitney was knocked
12 unconscious and fell from a 25-foot cliff into the freshwater pool;
13 in a matter of seconds, she slipped into the murky depths and
14 settled on the pool's floor, some 40 feet below the surface; and

15 WHEREAS, At great risk to his own safety, Garrett, who has a
16 background in scuba diving, dove into the water and swam quickly
17 through the darkness to the bottom; with his lungs burning, he
18 managed to locate Whitney and bring her to the surface, where he was
19 aided by other family members attempting to save the 13-year-old;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Despite being unconscious below the water for more
22 than two minutes, Whitney, the daughter of Tim Alexander and sister
23 of T. J. Alexander, has experienced a full recovery at her mother's
24 home in Lubbock; meanwhile, Garrett, a soon-to-be freshman at

1 Parish Episcopal School in Dallas, has earned the admiration of all
2 who know him for his lifesaving actions; and

3 WHEREAS, Garrett is the son of Debby Mullen and Mike Mullen
4 and the brother of Chandler Mullen; when not saving lives, he enjoys
5 an array of sporting activities, including basketball, swimming,
6 tennis, and biking, and he is also interested in acting and marine
7 biology; and

8 WHEREAS, Heroism takes many forms, from spontaneous
9 altruistic behavior to serving one's country in a time of need, and
10 Garrett has demonstrated that he possesses the courage and spirit
11 of a true hero; by saving the life of a young girl in distress, he
12 has brought two families even closer together, strengthening the
13 bond between the Alexanders and the Mullens with his inspirational
14 deed; and

15 WHEREAS, Garrett's quick thinking and fast action truly saved
16 the day for these two families and for the many friends and
17 relatives who cherish each and every member; his ability to remain
18 calm in the face of adversity belies his age, demonstrating the
19 inner strength and maturity possessed by this exemplary young man;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The Alexander and Mullen families are indeed blessed
22 to share such an outstanding son and sibling, and the memory of that
23 fateful day in Mexico will long remain in their hearts and minds as
24 they move forward together into what is sure to be a future filled
25 with great happiness and joy; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
27 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend Garrett Mullen for

1 his exceptional heroism in a life-threatening situation and extend
2 best wishes to him, to Ms. Alexander, and to their families for a
3 safe and happy future; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Mr. Mullen as an expression of high regard by the Texas
6 House of Representatives.