

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Boerne experienced a profound loss with
2 the passing of Sam V. Champion on January 8, 2007, at the age of 52;
3 while the absence of this beloved educator brings an undeniable
4 sense of sadness, memories of his valiant spirit and worthwhile
5 accomplishments continue to inspire, providing a meaningful
6 example of how one person can better a community through hard work,
7 positive thinking, and an enduring concern for the well-being of
8 others; and

9 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Boerne, Sam Champion played
10 fullback for the Greyhound football team at Boerne High and was a
11 member of the 1972 graduating class; he went on to earn a bachelor's
12 degree from Southwest Texas State University and a master's degree
13 from Our Lady of the Lake University; and

14 WHEREAS, After teaching in San Antonio and Hobbs, New Mexico,
15 Mr. Champion returned to his Hill Country hometown in 1982; he began
16 as a science instructor and sports coach at Boerne Middle School and
17 later became an administrator, serving as assistant principal for
18 both the middle and high schools before being appointed principal
19 of Boerne High in 1987; and

20 WHEREAS, In all his assignments, this innovative
21 professional used his enthusiasm to engage students and staff
22 members; as principal, he maintained a very visible presence at the
23 high school, informally visiting with young people in the hallways,
24 learning their names and faces, and encouraging them to do well in

1 their studies; his humor and athleticism were also put to use, and
2 Principal Champion became famous for performing gymnastic
3 handsprings during pep rallies and marking the start of each spring
4 break by lounging on a self-made sand "beach" in the school parking
5 lot; and

6 WHEREAS, While he enjoyed the fun, Sam Champion never lost
7 sight of his job's serious purpose: educating and shaping Boerne's
8 young people in preparation for adulthood; he often focused on
9 positive support, encouraging each of his students with
10 personalized, handwritten notes and providing struggling pupils
11 with the special assistance they needed to improve their grades; in
12 2002, Mr. Champion got the opportunity to spend more time with
13 at-risk students when he moved to a new position as the school
14 district's director of student services; among his accomplishments
15 in that post was the creation of Students Achieving Maximum
16 Success, better known as the "SAM'S Kids" program, which helps
17 young people overcome economic and social obstacles to achieve
18 academic success; and

19 WHEREAS, Students weren't the only ones to benefit from Sam
20 Champion's compassionate nature; he extended the same care to
21 friends and acquaintances, and his ability to reach out to others
22 was treasured by all who met him; his warm and welcoming disposition
23 was infectious, and Boerne residents returned the favor by
24 supporting Mr. Champion in the final years of his life; hundreds of
25 students lined the street when he departed for medical treatments,
26 and residents overwhelmingly backed the idea to grace the new
27 Boerne high school with Sam Champion's name; and

1 WHEREAS, An upbeat and energetic presence, Principal
2 Champion often greeted students and staff members with his favorite
3 morning phrase: "today is the day to do your best"; it was advice
4 that he followed himself, and throughout his 24 years of service in
5 the Boerne schools, Sam Champion built a legacy of personal
6 improvement that greatly influenced the thousands of individuals,
7 both students and teachers, who were fortunate enough to experience
8 his passionate brand of educational leadership; now, therefore, be
9 it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Sam V. Champion and
12 extend deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his
13 wife, Caroline; to his daughter, Kelsey; to his brothers, Clyde
14 Crain, Steve Champion, and John Champion; to his sister, Sue Adams;
15 and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sam
19 Champion.

Macias

Craddick	Gattis	Miles
Allen	Geren	Miller
Alonzo	Giddings	Moreno
Anchia	Gonzales	Morrison
Anderson	Gonzalez Toureilles	Mowery
Aycock	Goolsby	Murphy
Bailey	Guillen	Naishtat
Berman	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	O'Day
Bolton	Hancock	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hardcastle	Olivo
Branch	Harless	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Otto
Burnam	Heflin	Parker
Callegari	Hernandez	Patrick
Castro	Herrero	Paxton
Chavez	Hilderbran	Pena
Chisum	Hill	Phillips
Christian	Hochberg	Pickett
Cohen	Hodge	Pierson
Coleman	Homer	Pitts
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Puente
Cook of Colorado	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Corte	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Crabb	Hughes	Riddle
Creighton	Isett	Ritter
Crownover	Jackson	Rodriguez
Darby	Jones	Rose
Davis of Harris	Keffer	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Parker	Smith of Harris
Delisi	King of Taylor	Smithee
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Solomons
Driver	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dukes	Krusee	Straus
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Latham	Talton
Eiland	Laubenberg	Taylor
Eissler	Leibowitz	Thompson
Elkins	Lucio III	Truitt
England	Macias	Turner
Escobar	Madden	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Mallory Caraway	Vaught
Farias	Martinez	Veasey
Farrar	Martinez Fischer	Villarreal
Flores	McCall	Vo
Flynn	McClendon	West
Frost	McReynolds	Woolley
Gallego	Menendez	Zedler
Garcia	Merritt	Zerwas

H.R. No. 523

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 523 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 8, 2007.

Chief Clerk of the House