

By: Macias

H.R. No. 523

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.