

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 2239

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The game-day selection of Texas A&M University's
2 "12th Man" remains one of college football's most inspirational
3 traditions, and sophomore Nick LaMantia earned the privilege of
4 wearing the coveted No. 12 Aggie jersey for 11 of the team's 13
5 games during the 2006 season; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. LaMantia epitomizes the essence of the "12th
7 Man" through his enthusiasm, determination, and competitive
8 spirit; the walk-on from Mission proudly sported the famed maroon
9 and white jersey as a member of the team's kickoff squad and was
10 "miked up" for an ESPN GameDay segment that aired before the A&M-OU
11 game on November 4, 2006; in serving as the "12th Man," he continues
12 the unique tradition that dates back to a 1922 Aggie victory against
13 Centre College, then the nation's top-ranked college football team,
14 in the Dixie Classic in Dallas; and

15 WHEREAS, It was during that game that Coach Dana X. Bible
16 called on reserve E. King Gill to suit up after a number of injuries
17 had left the Aggie football team shorthanded and on the verge of
18 losing its hard-won advantage over the defending national
19 champions; although Mr. Gill never entered the game, the image of
20 the full-time basketball and part-time football player standing on
21 the sideline, padded leather helmet in hand, resonated with Aggie
22 faithful and gave birth to the tradition that still exists today;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The role of the "12th Man" has evolved throughout

1 the years since that seminal moment in Aggie football lore; during
2 the Jackie Sherrill era, for example, the Aggies successfully
3 fielded a "12th Man" kickoff team exclusively composed of
4 nonscholarship athletes; and

5 WHEREAS, Various factors led to the eventual erosion of Coach
6 Sherrill's popular contribution to "12th Man" history, and today a
7 single player maintains the legacy by donning No. 12 and taking the
8 field for kickoffs with 10 teammates; meanwhile, the student body
9 continues to celebrate the tradition by standing throughout the
10 game, a gesture reminiscent of E. King Gill standing on the Aggie
11 sideline in 1922, prepared to step in and help his team at a
12 moment's notice; and

13 WHEREAS, Wearing the "12th Man" jersey is the goal of every
14 walk-on player on the Aggie football team, and Nick LaMantia has
15 upheld the spirit and ideals of this unique honor with the utmost
16 integrity; his contributions as "12th Man," as well as those of past
17 honorees, are an important reminder of the role played by the
18 supporters of Texas A&M University's football team, and his
19 commitment to excellence has earned him the respect of his family,
20 friends, and fellow athletes; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize Nick LaMantia for demonstrating
23 excellence as the Aggies' main "12th Man" during the 2006 season and
24 extend best wishes to him for continued success in all his
25 endeavors; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Mr. LaMantia as an expression of high regard by the

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1 Texas House of Representatives.