

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 323

**WHEREAS**, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas is celebrating its 80th anniversary on February 24, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, This exemplary organization was founded in 1927 through the instrumental work of Jessie A. White, a young probation officer in Dallas, who was distraught at the future that awaited the boys filing through the Dallas Juvenile Court; and

**WHEREAS**, Jessie White believed that these boys needed a friend that they could count on and who would give them the feeling that someone cared about them; the Reverend J. J. Burnett, a Methodist minister, became the first president of the Dallas Big Brothers, and he was joined by 75 Dallas businessmen who stepped forward to mentor boys throughout the city; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1932, the County Boys' Parental Home and School was opened to provide care for youth who had been convicted through the juvenile courts but who did not meet the requirements for reform school; seven years later, Camp Tammi Babi, named for the Comanche expression for "little brother," opened in Cedar Hill to offer members of the program a structured summer environment away from the busy city; and

**WHEREAS**, The Melba Theatre on Elm Street in Dallas hosted Saturday morning Big Brother programs that featured visits by Popeye the Sailor and Baby Rose Marie, in addition to screening such motion pictures as *Joe Palooka*, with Jimmy Durante, and *The Lone Cowboy*, with Jackie Cooper; and

**WHEREAS**, During World War II, many men and boys connected with the program left to join the service; by the end of 1942, approximately 100 Big Brothers and 64 Little Brothers were on active military duty; and

**WHEREAS**, Over time, other communities in the region began to create their own agencies; Fort Worth launched its Big Brothers program in 1939, followed by Arlington in 1969, Denton County in 1975, Paris in 1978, and Grayson County in 1996; in 2003, the programs in Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, and Mansfield merged to form Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas, under the leadership of newly appointed chief executive officer Charles Pierson; and

**WHEREAS**, The well-being of our youth is something in which all Texans have a stake, and through the exceptional dedication of its volunteers and its staff, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas is helping countless children to develop a sense of self-worth and to find their way to a fulfilling and productive future; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commemorate the 80th anniversary of

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas and extend to all who make that program possible sincere appreciation for their immeasurable contributions to their community; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 28, 2007.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate