

By: Laubenberg

H.C.R. No. 37

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A superb American athlete brought great honor to her
2 country and to Collin County when Nastia Liukin of Parker won five
3 medals in the gymnastics competition at the 2008 Olympic Games in
4 Beijing; and

5 WHEREAS, In a masterful demonstration of her grace and
6 athletic ability, Ms. Liukin claimed the gold medal in the Women's
7 Individual All-Around Final and added two silver medals and one
8 bronze medal in individual events as well as a silver medal in the
9 team competition; her success tied the previous record for the most
10 medals won by a U.S. gymnast in one Olympics; and

11 WHEREAS, Anastasia Liukin was born on October 30, 1989, in
12 Moscow, Russia; her mother, Anna, was a world champion in rhythmic
13 gymnastics while her father, Valeri, won two gold medals and two
14 silver medals at the 1988 Olympic Games as a member of the Soviet
15 gymnastics team; when Nastia was two years old, the family moved to
16 the United States, where her parents began working as gymnastics
17 coaches; and

18 WHEREAS, While still very young, she began accompanying her
19 mother and father to the gym, where she amused herself by imitating
20 the routines of the older children training there; realizing that
21 Nastia's talent and desire could not be ignored, her parents began
22 teaching her the fundamentals of the sport; throughout her career,
23 she has been coached by her father, a founder of the World Olympic
24 Gymnastics Academy, which has three locations in the Dallas-Fort

1 Worth area, including the Plano gym where Nastia continues to
2 train; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Liukin began competing at age six, and in 2005,
4 she advanced to the senior international elite level; that same
5 year she won the national all-around title and was world champion in
6 two events; her progress was slowed the following year when she
7 suffered a serious ankle injury, but she battled back in 2007 and
8 claimed the world title on the balance beam; in June 2008 at the
9 Visa Championships, she won two events and finished second in the
10 all-around competition to set the stage for her Olympic appearance
11 in Beijing; and

12 WHEREAS, After joining with her fellow U.S. gymnasts to place
13 second in the team competition on August 13, Ms. Liukin achieved her
14 greatest triumph two days later, when she was crowned the
15 all-around Olympic champion; this victory was made even sweeter by
16 the fact that her father had narrowly missed winning the all-around
17 title 20 years earlier in the 1988 Olympics; in the days that
18 followed, she also earned a bronze medal in floor exercise and
19 silver medals in the balance beam and uneven bars events; and

20 WHEREAS, Her triumph inspired an outpouring of enthusiasm in
21 Collin County; on August 30, 2008, the city of Parker hosted a
22 parade that included Nastia and her family and featured the Plano
23 East Senior High School Marching Band, and a reception followed at
24 Southfork Ranch; there, area residents got an additional chance to
25 show their pride in the gymnast's accomplishments, and among those
26 in attendance were elected officials representing Collin County at
27 the local, state, and federal level; moreover, the Parker City

1 Council declared July 2008 as a special month to honor this
2 outstanding athlete; and

3 WHEREAS, The title of Olympic champion is an elite honor that
4 many strive to attain but few achieve; Nastia Liukin's
5 unforgettable accomplishments in Beijing have placed her at the
6 pinnacle of her sport and earned the proud admiration of her fellow
7 citizens in the State of Texas and throughout the nation; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby congratulate Nastia Liukin on winning five medals in the
11 gymnastics competition at the 2008 Olympic Games and that she be
12 extended sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Ms. Liukin as an expression of high regard by the Texas
16 House of Representatives and Senate.