

By: Madden

H.R. No. 404

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Serenity High in McKinney has made a positive
2 difference in the lives of numerous youth and their families since
3 its inception nearly a decade ago; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded to provide a safe haven and sober
5 environment for students who have successfully completed treatment
6 for chemical dependency, Serenity High is the only public high
7 school of its kind in Texas; Lynn Sperry, a longtime board member
8 for the McKinney Independent School District, was motivated to
9 promote the establishment of the school by her son's struggle with
10 addiction, and after more than a year of exploration and planning,
11 Serenity High opened on October 11, 1999; and

12 WHEREAS, Students undergo an extensive application process
13 to ensure that they are prepared to remain sober while completing
14 their education; once admitted, they receive individual
15 instruction on self-paced course work and participate in peer
16 support groups, team-building events, and ongoing community
17 service projects; moreover, students are required to demonstrate
18 their ongoing commitment to a sober lifestyle by undergoing random
19 drug testing; formal graduation ceremonies take place twice a year
20 and include a cherished ritual in which graduates hang photographs
21 of themselves on the wall of honor; and

22 WHEREAS, Through partnerships with area school districts,
23 Serenity High welcomes students from Anna, Celina, Community,
24 Farmersville, Frisco, Garland, Gunter, Melissa, Pilot Point,

1 Plano, Princeton, Richardson, Rockwall, and Wylie, and enrolls
2 students from other districts for a per-day tuition fee; to date,
3 the school has graduated more than 150 students, some of whom
4 traveled more than 35 miles from home to attend; and

5 WHEREAS, Thanks to the dedication and insight of principal
6 Juli Ferraro and her team of teachers, Serenity High helps students
7 overcome addiction and focus on their educational goals, and the
8 school's vital role in the lives of many young Texans cannot be
9 overestimated; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
11 Legislature hereby commend Serenity High for its outstanding record
12 of service to North Texas and extend to all those associated with
13 the school sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Serenity High as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.