

1 Gymnastics Academy, which has three locations in the Dallas-Fort
2 Worth area, including the Plano gym where Nastia continues to
3 train; and

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

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

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

1 the local, state, and federal level; moreover, the Parker City
2 Council declared July 2008 as a special month to honor this
3 outstanding athlete; and

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

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

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