By: Shapiro S.C.R. No. 14

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, A superb American athlete brought great honor to her 3 country and to Collin County when Nastia Liukin of Parker won five 4 medals in the gymnastics competition at the 2008 Olympic Games in 5 Beijing; and

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

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

WHEREAS, While still very young, she began accompanying her mother and father to the gym, where she amused herself by imitating the routines of the older children training there; realizing that Nastia's talent and desire could not be ignored, her parents began teaching her the fundamentals of the sport; throughout her career, she has been coached by her father, a founder of the World Olympic

- 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
- 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
- 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

- S.C.R. No. 14
- 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
- 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.