

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 997

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the members of the Temple Emanuel confirmation class of 2009 on the occasion of their confirmation from Temple Emanuel in McAllen on Friday, May 29, 2009, corresponding to the Jewish date of 6 Sivan, 5769; and

WHEREAS, The members of the confirmation class are Julie Berger, daughter of Diana and Bob Berger, Chelsea Freed, daughter of Paula and Jack Freed, Nick Hanemann, son of Patty and Pat Hanemann, Johnathan Simcha Weisfeld-Hinojosa, son of Rosalie Weisfeld and Senator Juan J. Hinojosa, and David Woloski, son of Mayra Woloski and Herman Woloski, and their teacher is Rabbi Steven Rosenberg; and

WHEREAS, Confirmation at Temple Emanuel in McAllen is the celebration for Jewish students completing their religious school studies at the end of 10th grade after 12 years of Jewish education; and

WHEREAS, The confirmation ceremony celebrates the students' graduation from high school Jewish studies; and

WHEREAS, Bar and bat mitzvah ceremonies focus on an individual child becoming a Jewish adult at the age of 13; the confirmation ceremony focuses on the entire religious school class of young adults confirming their commitment to Judaism and Jewish living at the age of 16; and

WHEREAS, Confirmation is an additional, rather than an alternative, ceremony to the bar and bat mitzvahs celebrated by the students on their 13th birthdays; and

WHEREAS, Confirmation studies teach young adult Jews that they are entering "a sacred community" in which they can question, challenge, and debate Jewish questions without being judged; the confirmation model encourages youth to work together as a community to contribute to the world around them; thus, confirmation emphasizes the importance of communal participation in Judaism; confirmation studies give Jewish young adults an opportunity to confirm their commitment to Judaism and to Jewish life; and

WHEREAS, During the confirmation ceremony, the students will assist their teacher, Rabbi Steven Rosenberg, in leading the Shabbat service, including the Torah reading; each student in the confirmation class will deliver a speech on one of the four major movements of Judaism, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist, and the history of Jewish immigration into the United States; the religious discourse is the culmination of their yearlong studies, which included a trip to San Antonio to actually experience and learn firsthand more about the different Jewish movements; and

S.R. No. 997

WHEREAS, The confirmation ceremony is held on the festival of Shavuot, which celebrates the anniversary of receiving the Torah; the graduating class stands in front of the ark just as the Israelites once stood at Mount Sinai, a parallel between the Jewish people's acceptance of the Torah at Mount Sinai and the Jewish confirmation students accepting the role of Judaism in their lives; and

WHEREAS, The students' accomplishments are worthy of recognition and respect; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby congratulate Julie Berger, Chelsea Freed, Nick Hanemann, Johnathan Simcha Weisfeld-Hinojosa, and David Woloski on their confirmation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 25, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate