

By: Gooden

H.R. No. 737

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Thomas Randall Snow of Terrell experienced a
2 life-changing accident while still a teen, yet he went on to become
3 a world-renowned athlete who inspired countless admirers across the
4 Lone Star State and beyond; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on May 24, 1959, Randy Snow was a state-ranked
6 tennis player dreaming of a pro career when he was paralyzed at the
7 age of 16 in a farm accident; he graduated from Terrell High School
8 and enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin, establishing a
9 wheelchair basketball team there, and he later transferred to The
10 University of Texas at Arlington and participated in the school's
11 wheelchair athletic program, ultimately earning a bachelor's
12 degree in 1986; he subsequently received a master's degree in
13 psychology from the University of Phoenix; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Snow competed in wheelchair tennis, track, and
15 basketball, with an impressive record of success in all three
16 sports; after receiving a standing ovation and a silver medal for
17 his performance in the men's 1500-meter wheelchair exhibition race
18 at the 1984 Summer Olympics, he helped focus attention on disabled
19 athletes and assisted in the launch of the Paralympic Games; he was
20 a 16-time U.S. Open wheelchair champion between 1981 and 1993, won
21 gold medals in the 1992 Summer Paralympic Games in Barcelona for
22 singles and doubles tennis, and was a member of the bronze
23 medal-winning wheelchair basketball team at the 1996 Atlanta Games;
24 moreover, he was named outstanding athlete at the National

1 Wheelchair Games and became the only participant to medal in three
2 different sports in the summer Paralympic Games; and

3 WHEREAS, This notable competitor was inducted into the Texas
4 Tennis Hall of Fame in 2001 and the National Spinal Cord Injury Hall
5 of Fame in 2005, and he was the first paralympian inducted into the
6 U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 2004; and

7 WHEREAS, Also a leader in business and motivational speaking
8 and the author of three books, Mr. Snow conducted the Randy Snow
9 Wheelchair Tennis Camps and developed the United States
10 Professional Tennis Association wheelchair certification; he had a
11 20-year career with Sunrise Medical, a company that makes
12 wheelchairs and other devices, and he founded his own venture, NO
13 XQs, Inc., in 1999; in addition, he served on the board of the
14 Terrell Friends of the Library and was active in Wheels for
15 Humanity, Turning Point Nation, and other groups that encourage and
16 support individuals with disabilities; he was leading a wheelchair
17 tennis camp in El Salvador for the International Tennis Federation
18 at the time of his death on November 19, 2009, and he was
19 posthumously inducted into the U.S. Professional Tennis
20 Association Hall of Fame the following year; and

21 WHEREAS, In conjunction with the annual Kaufman County Day
22 festivities at the State Capitol, the date of March 7, 2011, is also
23 being recognized as Randy Snow Day in memory of this longtime county
24 resident and esteemed Texan; and

25 WHEREAS, Refusing to let his disability define him, Randy
26 Snow brought to all of his endeavors great skill, optimism, and
27 determination, and his achievements have touched more lives than he

1 could ever know; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
3 Legislature hereby recognize March 7, 2011, as Randy Snow Day and
4 pay tribute to the life and legacy of this remarkable Texan.