

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The buddies and volunteers who take part in the
2 Miracle League of Austin are making positive and lasting
3 contributions to their community; and

4 WHEREAS, The Miracle League, a program of the Town and
5 Country Optimist Club, offers special needs children between the
6 ages of 4 and 19 the opportunity to enjoy the fun and excitement of
7 playing baseball; the participants get to be a part of a team while
8 playing in two-inning games that last approximately one hour, and
9 every person gets to bat and score in each inning; the seven-game
10 seasons are held in the fall and spring and are played on The Round
11 Rock Express Miracle Field, which was specially designed to safely
12 accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and other equipment; the players
13 receive the assistance of at least one buddy, a volunteer who is
14 assigned to protect and assist them in all aspects of the game;
15 buddies are typically area middle and high school students between
16 the ages of 12 and 18 who contribute their time on Saturdays to
17 support the league's players; other volunteers help coordinate the
18 buddies and manage league activities; and

19 WHEREAS, The first Miracle League was formed in Rockdale
20 County, Georgia, in 1998, and in the spring of 2006, Steve Brown, a
21 member of the Town and Country Optimist Club's board of directors,
22 and Adam Weisberg, a local restaurateur, began working to bring the
23 concept to Austin; Mr. Brown and Mr. Weisberg enlisted the aid of
24 countless volunteers and benefactors from within their community to

1 make the league a reality; the Optimist club provided the land, and
2 a major fund-raising campaign began to secure the \$500,000 needed
3 to build the specialized field; and

4 WHEREAS, The fund-raising campaign was a great success, and
5 the Miracle League received enthusiastic support from many
6 businesses, including the Round Rock Express and the Nolan Ryan
7 Foundation; among the individuals who also supported the effort
8 were architect Michael Antenora, who designed the facility, Reed
9 Seaton, owner of Hellas Construction, who contributed to the
10 construction of the site, and Dave Fendrick, currently president of
11 the Round Rock Express, who played an integral role in getting the
12 baseball club and the foundation to donate \$250,000 for the naming
13 rights to the field; their generous sponsorship led to its
14 successful construction; and

15 WHEREAS, The Miracle League began playing in 2006 on existing
16 softball fields until The Round Rock Express Miracle Field opened
17 for play in fall 2007; since beginning with 2 teams of 23 players,
18 31 buddies, and 7 volunteers, the league has grown to include 12
19 teams of 180 players, more than 240 buddies, and over 40 volunteers;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Through the Miracle League of Austin, countless
22 special needs children have been able to participate in America's
23 pastime, and this experience has brought immeasurable joy to the
24 players, their parents, and the buddies and volunteers; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
27 Legislature hereby commend the buddies and volunteers of the

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1 Miracle League at Town and Country and extend to all those
2 associated with the league sincere best wishes for continued
3 success; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for the Miracle League of Austin as an expression of high
6 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Gonzales of Williamson

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2276 was adopted by the House on May 26, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House