

By: Gonzales of Williamson

H.R. No. 2276

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

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.