

By: Frullo

H.R. No. 2418

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Superintendent Richard Baumgartner of the Rise  
2 Academy charter school in Lubbock demonstrated great courage in  
3 rescuing one of his teachers during a violent incident on May 10,  
4 2011; and

5           WHEREAS, On that day, a troubled man burst into the office at  
6 Rise Academy, where he told the secretary he had killed his mother  
7 and asked her to call 9-1-1; he then locked himself into  
8 Superintendent Baumgartner's office with a teacher and threatened  
9 to assault her at knife point; and

10           WHEREAS, Arriving on the scene, Mr. Baumgartner realized his  
11 coworker was in grave danger and decided he could not wait for the  
12 police and quickly forced the door open by slamming it with his  
13 shoulder; this distracted the assailant from the teacher, who  
14 escaped, but in the commotion, Mr. Baumgartner was wounded; he then  
15 picked up a chair to defend himself and talked to the man until the  
16 police arrived; and

17           WHEREAS, Mr. Baumgartner's swift and caring response came as  
18 little surprise to those who know him; a native of Kalamazoo,  
19 Michigan, he committed himself at an early age to improving the  
20 prospects of impoverished Americans through education; after  
21 working with innovative educator Marva Collins at her Westside  
22 Preparatory School in Chicago, he founded Rise Academy in Lubbock  
23 in 1999; and

24           WHEREAS, Richard Baumgartner risked his own life to ensure

1 the safety of a person in tremendous peril, and he is indeed worthy  
2 of special recognition for his remarkable heroism; now, therefore,  
3 be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
5 Legislature hereby commend Superintendent Richard Baumgartner of  
6 Rise Academy for his courageous rescue of a coworker and extend to  
7 him sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and,  
8 be it further

9         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for Mr. Baumgartner as an expression of high regard by the  
11 Texas House of Representatives.