

By: Margo

H.R. No. 2425

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Justin Churchman of El Paso has won a national 2011
2 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, earning recognition as one of
3 the top 10 youth volunteers in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Sponsored by Prudential Financial and the National
5 Association of Secondary School Principals, the Spirit of Community
6 Awards honor young people in middle school and high school who have
7 demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their
8 communities, and this year more than 29,000 teens from throughout
9 the country were considered for recognition; and

10 WHEREAS, Since 2006, Mr. Churchman has led an effort to build
11 houses for the poor in Juarez, Mexico, inspired by his experiences
12 building homes there with his school and the organization Casas por
13 Cristo, beginning at age 12; he was deeply gratified by the work and
14 decided to put together his own team of volunteers after the
15 violence in Juarez escalated and his school stopped making the
16 trips; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Churchman began the endeavor with five months of
18 planning and fund-raising, including writing letters and making
19 speeches to potential donors, obtaining international permits,
20 purchasing insurance, and determining the necessary supplies; he
21 received support from three companies and many individuals and
22 recruited 30 volunteers, and his team built a house in three days;
23 to date, he has raised more than \$48,000 and recruited over 75
24 volunteers, and he reached his personal goal of completing 18

1 houses by his 18th birthday; and

2 WHEREAS, This outstanding young Texan has demonstrated
3 remarkable initiative and determination in the pursuit of a
4 selfless goal, and he is a source of inspiration to all who are
5 privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
7 Legislature hereby congratulate Justin Churchman on being named one
8 of the top 10 youth volunteers in the nation for 2011 by the
9 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program and extend to him
10 sincere best wishes for continued success with his important work;
11 and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Mr. Churchman as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.