

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 1680

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For 60 years, the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville has
2 provided a memorable summer camp experience to countless children
3 with special needs; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1948, as a polio epidemic swept the nation, Jack
5 Roe, a social worker and Lions Club member, worked with the
6 Kerrville Lions Club to create a summer camp for children who had
7 been affected by the disease; after the camp was officially
8 approved by the Lions International Convention in 1949, Lions Clubs
9 throughout the state raised funds to build the facility on 500 acres
10 of the Texas Hill Country; and

11 WHEREAS, The Texas Lions Camp greeted its inaugural campers,
12 40 excited children, on June 8, 1953, and by the end of its first
13 summer, 236 children had enjoyed a week filled with the joys of
14 nature and new friends; in 1971, the camp expanded its services to
15 include programs for children with type I diabetes, and now nearly
16 1,500 children with physical disabilities, Down syndrome, visual
17 and hearing impairments, diabetes, and cancer attend the camp each
18 summer; and

19 WHEREAS, Each of the one-week summer sessions is based on a
20 can-do philosophy, as campers between the ages of 7 and 16 learn to
21 feel more self-confident, develop a positive self-image, and become
22 more independent while riding horses, sleeping under the stars, and
23 participating in a range of educational and recreational
24 activities; and

1 WHEREAS, Since the camp opened in 1953, more than 62,000
2 children have attended, and to celebrate the camp's immeasurable
3 contributions to youth over the years, the Texas Historical
4 Commission awarded it an official Texas Historical Marker in 2005;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Texas Lions Camp has demonstrated an unwavering
7 commitment to children with special needs, and it is indeed fitting
8 that it be recognized for the invaluable, life-enhancing
9 experiences that it provides to so many young Texans; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
12 Legislature hereby honor the Texas Lions Camp on the occasion of its
13 60th anniversary and extend to all those associated with the camp
14 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for the Texas Lions Camp as an expression of high regard by
17 the Texas House of Representatives.