

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 2626

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Eight students from The University of Texas at San
2 Antonio have contributed indispensable support to the Texas
3 Legislature as members of the UTSA Legislative Scholars Program,
4 and as the 83rd Legislative Session draws to a close, it is indeed
5 fitting to recognize these dedicated interns; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 2004, the endeavor cofounded by State
7 Representative Ruth Jones McClendon and The University of Texas at
8 San Antonio, which is also known as the McClendon Legislative
9 Scholars Program, has provided students with the unique opportunity
10 to work full-time at the State Capitol during the legislative
11 session; while serving as interns in the offices of members of the
12 Texas House of Representatives, these select undergraduate and
13 graduate students immerse themselves in the legislative process and
14 make important connections with prominent policymakers and elected
15 officials; each of the promising students chosen to participate has
16 demonstrated a commitment to public service, as well as
17 professionalism and independent thinking, and as interns, they
18 perform a number of essential tasks, including research, analysis,
19 writing, and corresponding with constituents; and

20 WHEREAS, Working in the office of Representative Dawnna
21 Dukes, Eliana Briceno is majoring in Spanish and sociology at UTSA,
22 where she was a finalist for Student Volunteer of the Year; she has
23 contributed more than 300 hours to the Volunteer Organization
24 Involving Community Education and Services, including coordinating

1 spring break trips to benefit Habitat for Humanity; she is the
2 recipient of the Outstanding Latina Student Leadership Award, among
3 other honors, and after graduating, she plans to pursue a
4 certificate in international studies at Johns Hopkins University;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Ana Cabrera, who has served in the office of
7 Representative Senfronia Thompson, is majoring in honors studies
8 and minoring in legal studies and art history and criticism; a
9 member of the University Honors Student Association, she has also
10 served as a justice of the Student Government Association and as
11 secretary of Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society; and

12 WHEREAS, An intern in the office of Representative Rob Orr,
13 Samantha Link has earned a legal reasoning certificate, as well as a
14 scholarship, from the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and
15 she has attended the Summer Law School Preparation Academy at the
16 UTSA Institute for Law and Public Affairs; majoring in business
17 management, she plans to pursue a law degree and to enlist in the
18 U.S. Navy; and

19 WHEREAS, Travis Miller has been a welcome addition to the
20 office of Representative Jose Menendez; a founding father of the
21 UTSA chapter of Alpha Tau Omega, a leadership development
22 fraternity, Mr. Miller is also a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha
23 National Political Science Honor Society and the National Society
24 of Collegiate Scholars; he is studying political science, holds a
25 certificate in legal reasoning, and plans to attend law school; and

26 WHEREAS, Amarro Nelson, an intern in the office of
27 Representative Ruth Jones McClendon, is pursuing his graduate

1 degree in sociology, having completed his bachelor's degree at
2 George Washington University; as an undergraduate, he was the
3 community service chair for Delta Tau Delta Fraternity in
4 Washington, D.C., where he coordinated service projects and raised
5 more than \$10,000 to benefit local residents; and

6 WHEREAS, Serving in the office of Representative Borris
7 Miles, Alexandra Rosales is a first-generation college student who
8 is majoring in criminal justice; she is a dedicated volunteer for
9 Hope Hospice in New Braunfels, Goodwill, and Cole Vocational
10 Services in California, where she works with adults with
11 developmental disabilities; she plans to attend law school and has
12 earned an award for logical reasoning from the UTSA Institute for
13 Law and Public Affairs; and

14 WHEREAS, Corbin Marak, an intern in the office of
15 Representative Lois Kolkhorst, has built a notable resume that
16 includes internships with Judge Cliff Brown of Austin and the
17 Office of the Attorney General Child Support Division; in addition,
18 he has volunteered for former U.S. Congressman Charles Gonzalez of
19 Texas and the First Tee of Greater Austin; a member of the National
20 Society of Collegiate Scholars, Mr. Marak hopes to one day become a
21 judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; and

22 WHEREAS, Valerie Sullivan has served in the office of the
23 speaker of the house, Joe Straus; pursuing a master's degree in
24 social work, she is a former member of the U.S. Air Force Security
25 Police, for which she organized food, clothing, and blood drives,
26 and led the rebuilding of an orphanage in Kyrgyzstan; she has
27 further distinguished herself through her volunteerism in behalf of

1 Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics,
2 and the U.S. Army's Community Service Center; and

3 WHEREAS, The highly qualified students who make up the Class
4 of 2013 McClendon Scholars have provided a vital service to the
5 legislature throughout the session while expanding their knowledge
6 of Texas politics and government, and it is a pleasure to celebrate
7 these accomplished young people and to honor them for their notable
8 public service; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
10 Legislature hereby commend Eliana Briceno, Ana Cabrera, Samantha
11 Link, Travis Miller, Amarro Nelson, Alexandra Rosales, Corbin
12 Marak, and Valerie Sullivan for their myriad contributions to state
13 government as participants in the 2013 UTSA Legislative Scholars
14 Program and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued
15 success in all their endeavors; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
17 for the McClendon Scholars as an expression of high regard by the
18 Texas House of Representatives.