

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 583

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to welcome Mitchell Marcus and Jon Montanez to the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Mitchell Marcus is a senior at Coronado High School and team manager for the Thunderbirds basketball team; Jon Montanez is a member of the Franklin High School Cougars basketball team, the Thunderbirds' crosstown rival; and

WHEREAS, Near the end of the recent season, as the undefeated Coronado Thunderbirds were preparing for their last home game, a contest against the Franklin Cougars on February 12, 2013, Coronado coach Peter Morales had his team manager, Mitchell Marcus, suit up for the game, as an expression of appreciation for the senior's boundless enthusiasm and his three years of dedication as manager of the team; Mitchell has a developmental disability that prevents him from playing competitively, but his lifelong love of the sport is unequalled; and

WHEREAS, Near the end of the game, but with his team leading by only 10 points and their undefeated record on the line, Coach Morales further surprised Mitchell by putting him in the game, so that he would have the opportunity to realize his long-held dream of scoring a basket; Mitchell had never practiced with the team, but his teammates did their best to help him score; as the clock wound down, with 13 seconds left in the game, the ball was out of bounds and in the hands of an opposing team member, Jon Montanez; and

WHEREAS, Jon had recognized that something bigger than the outcome of one game was at stake in the opposing team's efforts to give their teammate his shot; in an extraordinary and selfless act of sportsmanship, Jon gave Mitchell a final chance that Mitchell's coach and teammates had not been able to provide: he called out to Mitchell, passed him the ball, and exhorted him to shoot it; and

WHEREAS, With the help of his teammates, and at the last moment, Mitchell scored, sealing the Thunderbirds' 55-40 victory; the buzzer sounded and the hall erupted in cheers as fans of both teams rejoiced and Mitchell's teammates carried him off the court on their shoulders; and

WHEREAS, Thunderbirds coach Peter Morales and Cougars coach Todd Bostic have clearly established basketball programs in which the heat of rivalry and competition is leavened with sportsmanship and respect for their opponents, and their efforts played a vital role in creating an environment in which such an indelible event could unfold; and

WHEREAS, The example set by Jon Montanez and Mitchell Marcus has served as an inspiration to people across the nation, and it is truly fitting that these fine young men be recognized for their courage, their integrity, and their dedication to the sport of basketball and to the ideals of sportsmanship; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby commend Mitchell Marcus and Jon Montanez on their exemplary display of heart and character as team members, as rivals, and as sportsmen and extend to them best wishes for continued success in all their endeavors; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Rodriguez, Patrick

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 22, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate