

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 659

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Texas section of the United States Tennis Association, also known as USTA Texas, for its commitment to expanding the popularity of the game of tennis throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Tennis is a lifetime sport that helps to fight obesity in children and contributes to the healthy lifestyle of over one million Texans; and

WHEREAS, The rules of tennis have changed, making it much more user-friendly through the use of modified courts, softer balls, and racquets sized specifically for children and seniors; and

WHEREAS, More than 300 new, smaller, 10 and Under tennis courts have been created since 2011, and tennis can now be played almost anywhere--in a gym, in a parking lot, or on a driveway, as well as in any of the more than 800 tennis facilities across Texas; and

WHEREAS, Over 475,000 Texas students have been exposed to tennis through physical education in schools, and training has been provided for schoolteachers, along with equipment packages; after-school tennis programs continue to instill in youth the values of teamwork, competition, dedication, and a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, The National Junior Tennis and Learning program, which was founded by Arthur Ashe, teaches tennis and provides tutoring in academics and life skills to more than 50,000 low-income, at-risk children throughout the State of Texas each year; and

WHEREAS, The United States Tennis Association supports our military; it has promoted wheelchair tennis for years, and it now provides programs to wounded warriors at several military bases and veterans' hospitals; modified tennis equipment has been sent to Afghanistan, and tennis organizations in Texas have adopted over 3,500 soldiers, sending them treats in care packages as well as requested personal items; the Texas section of the United States Tennis Association promotes tennis activities on all of the military bases in Texas that include both adults and children; and

WHEREAS, The Texas section of the United States Tennis Association has over 59,000 members and continues to expose millions of Texans to the sport, making our communities healthier with each tennis racquet, ball, and court; since 2011, the Texas section has invested more than \$300,000 back into public tennis facilities and grassroots programs; this outstanding organization deserves recognition for its hard work and dedication to expanding the popularity of tennis in Texas and making it available to all people; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby commend the Texas section of the United States Tennis Association for its outstanding efforts to encourage a healthy lifestyle for all Texans and extend to its members best wishes for success in their future endeavors; and, be it further

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

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 16, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate