

By: Riddle

H.C.R. No. 102

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Benjamin Netanyahu and the Likud Party won the
2 recent parliamentary election in Israel on March 17, 2015,
3 empowering Mr. Netanyahu to form a new government and embark upon a
4 fourth term as prime minister of the "other Lone Star State"; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Tel Aviv in 1949, Mr. Netanyahu spent his
6 early years in Jerusalem, and twice during the 1950s and 1960s, he
7 lived with his family in a suburb of Philadelphia, where he
8 graduated from Cheltenham High School; and

9 WHEREAS, From 1967 to 1972, Mr. Netanyahu served in the
10 Israeli Defense Forces as a member of the elite special forces unit
11 Sayeret Matkal, taking part in a number of dangerous missions; in
12 1972, he was one of the commandos who successfully retook a hijacked
13 plane at Tel Aviv-Lod International Airport, during which action he
14 received a gunshot wound to his shoulder; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Netanyahu returned to the United States in 1972
16 to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but he
17 interrupted his studies for 40 days during the Yom Kippur War to
18 take part in special forces raids along the Suez Canal and to lead a
19 commando team deep into Syria; he then continued his education at
20 MIT, earning a bachelor's degree in architecture and a master's
21 degree in management; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1978, Mr. Netanyahu became head of an antiterror
23 institute in Israel named for his late brother, Yonatan, who died
24 while leading a special forces unit in rescuing hijacked Israeli

1 citizens in Entebbe, Uganda; he entered public service in 1982 as
2 deputy chief of mission at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C.,
3 and from 1984 to 1988, he served as the Israeli ambassador to the
4 United Nations; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Netanyahu joined the Likud Party in 1988 and
6 later that year won election to the Knesset, Israel's parliament;
7 he became the leader of Likud in 1993, and he first served as the
8 nation's prime minister from 1996 to 1999; after spending two years
9 in the private sector, he returned to public life, first as foreign
10 minister and then as finance minister under Ariel Sharon; by 2005,
11 he was once again the leader of Likud, and he became prime minister
12 again in 2009; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Netanyahu has been elected prime minister four
14 times, matching the record of David Ben-Gurion, the founder of
15 Israel, and he is the only prime minister to have won three
16 elections in a row; he is also the second-longest-serving prime
17 minister in Israel's history, after Ben-Gurion; and

18 WHEREAS, Since he first took up arms in his nation's defense
19 in 1967, Benjamin Netanyahu has been for nearly half a century a
20 dynamic and passionate champion for the State of Israel, and his
21 confident and decisive leadership, and the strong bonds he has
22 forged with his friends and allies in the United States, have helped
23 to ensure Israel's prosperity and security; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
25 hereby congratulate Benjamin Netanyahu on his reelection as prime
26 minister of Israel and extend to him sincere best wishes for the
27 future; and, be it further

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Mr. Netanyahu as an expression of high regard by the
3 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.