

By: Wray

H.R. No. 500

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Ennis High School football team reached the
2 pinnacle of success by winning the University Interscholastic
3 League 5A Division 2 state championship on December 19, 2014, at
4 AT&T Stadium in Arlington; and

5 WHEREAS, Matching up against the squad from Cedar Park High
6 School in the state final, the Lions jumped out to an early lead in
7 the first quarter but found themselves trailing by four points at
8 halftime; the teams traded the lead back and forth in the third
9 quarter, but Cedar Park appeared to have the game in hand after
10 scoring late in the fourth quarter and then recovering a fumble on
11 the ensuing kickoff; the Ennis defense held strong, however,
12 stalling the Cedar Park drive and forcing a missed field goal; that
13 turned the ball back over to the offense with only 1:29 left to play
14 and 80 yards to go for the win; in a crucial third-and-long
15 situation, the Lions pulled off a surprising hook-and-ladder play
16 to gain a first down and advance into Cedar Park territory; on the
17 following play, quarterback Devin Smith threw a strike to wide
18 receiver Donta Thompson, who fought his way into the end zone to
19 clinch a dramatic 38-35 victory for Ennis High School; and

20 WHEREAS, The team's thrilling triumph in the title game
21 brought to a close a memorable season in which the Lions dropped
22 their first two contests before reeling off 14 consecutive wins;
23 moreover, the team claimed the school's fifth state football
24 championship, and its first since 2004; and

1 WHEREAS, Excelling with a true team effort, the Lions
2 received valuable contributions from each member of the roster in
3 their championship quest; these gifted student-athletes benefited
4 throughout the year from the guidance and expertise of head coach
5 Jack Alvarez and his staff as well as from the passionate support of
6 the Ennis community; and

7 WHEREAS, In becoming one of the select teams in the Lone Star
8 State to earn the mantle of state champion, the Ennis Lions have
9 furthered their school's tradition of excellence on the gridiron,
10 and this accomplishment is indeed worthy of special recognition;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
13 Legislature hereby congratulate the Ennis High School football team
14 on winning the UIL 5A Division 2 state championship and extend to
15 the team's players, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for the
16 future; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the team as an expression of high regard by the Texas
19 House of Representatives.