

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Organ donations save countless lives in Texas and  
2 the United States each year, but there is a critical shortage of  
3 organs available for transplant; and

4           WHEREAS, Statistics demonstrate the urgent need for organ  
5 donors, with over 110,000 individuals currently on the national  
6 waiting list for transplants, more than 10,000 of whom reside in  
7 Texas; a person is added to the list every 11 minutes, and each day  
8 18 people die while waiting for organs to become available; and

9           WHEREAS, A single donor can save up to eight lives by giving  
10 their heart, liver, pancreas, kidneys, lungs, and small bowels to  
11 patients in dire need of these crucial organs; additionally, tissue  
12 transplants from the donor can be used to treat severe burns,  
13 injuries, and impaired vision in another 50 recipients; and

14           WHEREAS, In 1995, Rodney DeBaun and his wife, Isibelle,  
15 started the David Nicklas Organ Donor Awareness Foundation; named  
16 in honor of the young man whose heart was donated to Mr. DeBaun,  
17 this nonprofit organization is dedicated to narrowing the gap  
18 between transplant patients and the nearest transplant hospital;  
19 for the first five years, the foundation achieved this mission by  
20 maintaining two airplanes, one to fly patients and their families  
21 to the hospital at any time of the day or night, and the other to  
22 perform at air shows, generating money and increasing awareness of  
23 this serious medical issue; and

24           WHEREAS, Wanting to permanently endow the foundation,

1 Mr. DeBaun built The Landings of Carrier Parkway apartment complex  
2 in 2000; the majority of the 281 units are rented out to bring in  
3 funds, but at least five are provided free of charge to out-of-town  
4 transplant patients and their families; over the years, more than  
5 30 transplant recipients have lived in the complex and benefited  
6 from its proximity to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
7 Center; and

8 WHEREAS, For the last two decades, the Nicklas Foundation has  
9 worked tirelessly to help transplant patients obtain essential  
10 medical care and to raise awareness of the lifesaving power of organ  
11 and tissue donation, and in so doing, it has contributed  
12 immeasurably to the health and well-being of many residents of the  
13 Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby recognize February 24, 2015, as Donor Day at the  
16 State Capitol and commend the David Nicklas Organ Donor Awareness  
17 Foundation and the other individuals, organizations, and agencies  
18 involved in this worthy endeavor; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for the Nicklas Foundation as an expression of high regard  
21 by the Texas House of Representatives.

Anderson of Dallas

Straus	Guerra	Otto
Allen	Guillen	Paddie
Alonzo	Gutierrez	Parker
Alvarado	Harless	Paul
Anchia	Hernandez	Peña
Anderson of Dallas	Herrero	Phelan
Anderson of McLennan	Howard	Phillips
Ashby	Huberty	Pickett
Aycock	Hughes	Price
Bell	Hunter	Raney
Blanco	Isaac	Raymond
Bohac	Israel	Reynolds
Bonnen of Brazoria	Johnson	Riddle
Bonnen of Galveston	Kacal	Rinaldi
Burkett	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Burns	Keough	Rodriguez of Travis
Burrows	King of Hemphill	Romero, Jr.
Button	King of Parker	Rose
Canales	King of Taylor	Sanford
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Schaefer
Clardy	Klick	Schofield
Coleman	Koop	Shaheen
Collier	Krause	Sheets
Cook	Kuempel	Sheffield
Craddick	Landgraf	Simmons
Crownover	Larson	Simpson
Dale	Laubenberg	Smith
Darby	Leach	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Spitzer
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Springer
Deshotel	Lucio III	Stephenson
Dukes	Márquez	Stickland
Dutton	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Elkins	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Faircloth	McClendon	Tinderholt
Fallon	Menéndez	Turner of Collin
Farias	Metcalf	Turner of Harris
Farney	Meyer	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	VanDeaver
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villalba
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White of Bell
Galindo	Muñoz, Jr.	White of Tyler
Geren	Murphy	Workman
Giddings	Murr	Wray
Goldman	Naishtat	Wu
Gonzales	Nevárez	Zedler
González	Oliveira	Zerwas

H.R. No. 544

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 544 was adopted by the House on February 24, 2015, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House