

By: Anderson of Dallas

H.R. No. 544

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.