

By: Larson

H.R. No. 937

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On July 20, 2012, 16-year-old Kali Gorzell of San  
2 Antonio lost her life in a boating accident on Aransas Bay, when the  
3 flats boat she was riding in unexpectedly swapped ends, ejecting  
4 her into the water; since that tragic day, her family has worked  
5 tirelessly to address safety concerns and raise public awareness of  
6 the potential operational defects of the hull designs of flats  
7 boats; and

8 WHEREAS, In response to a consumer safety defect complaint  
9 filed by the Gorzell family, the United States Coast Guard hired an  
10 independent contractor in 2013 to conduct a study on the safety of  
11 flats boats; the evaluation found design flaws that, under certain  
12 conditions, made the boats vulnerable to swapping ends events  
13 during routine operation; and

14 WHEREAS, The coast guard later published the report in its  
15 Fall 2014 *Boating Safety Circular* and shared operational practices  
16 for flats boats; these guidelines include having passengers occupy  
17 areas of the vessel behind the console, where handholds are more  
18 accessible, operating with the motor fully engaged with the water  
19 in a down position, and avoiding aggressive turns at speeds above 25  
20 miles per hour; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to the coast guard's instructions, the  
22 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department advises the public to wear life  
23 jackets, use a kill switch, and take a boating safety course to  
24 ensure optimal protection while on the water; and

1           WHEREAS, Responsible boating practices help ensure safe and  
2 enjoyable water recreation and are of paramount importance to  
3 boaters of all ages and skill levels; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Kali Gorzell and  
6 encourage boaters and anglers to heed warning labels and to employ  
7 safe boating practices; and, be it further

8           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
9 prepared for the Gorzell family in recognition of their steadfast  
10 resolve to educate the public on boating safety in the aftermath of  
11 their beloved daughter's passing.