

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 1482

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Since 2007, the Rise School of Corpus Christi has
2 provided a unique and supportive learning environment for area
3 toddlers and preschoolers, including those with special needs; and

4 WHEREAS, The school was established by a Corpus Christi
5 couple who, after their son was born with Down syndrome in 2006,
6 began a search for an early childhood program that could offer
7 full-time educational and therapeutic services for young children
8 with developmental disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, Discouraged by the lack of opportunities in the
10 area, the family discovered the "Rise" program in Tuscaloosa,
11 Alabama, which uses a research-based model in which children with
12 disabilities are integrated with nondisabled peers; this tested
13 approach, combined with other best practices in early childhood
14 education, has resulted in a higher level of achievement among
15 children in the program compared with more traditional learning
16 methods; and

17 WHEREAS, In order to make this state-of-the-art resource a
18 reality in Corpus Christi, a skilled and motivated staff of
19 community volunteers was recruited, and a partnership was forged
20 with Driscoll Children's Hospital; the Rise School of Corpus
21 Christi today builds on this strong foundation in its mission to
22 ensure its young charges every advantage in reaching their full
23 potential, and the school is also engaged in research, outreach,
24 and public awareness activities; and

1 WHEREAS, This exceptional institution is guided by an
2 outstanding board of directors, which includes president Amy
3 Keramian Brown, secretary Jennifer Childers, treasurer Frank
4 Hastings, and members Newman Baker, Adriana Lopez, Chrissy Royo,
5 Cammy Mikulencak, Karen McCaleb, Amanda Cutbirth, Butch Pool,
6 Jessica Davila-Burnett, Sarah Tindall, and Vanessa Nisbet; and

7 WHEREAS, Through the service rendered by these individuals
8 and the program's dedicated volunteers, the Rise School of Corpus
9 Christi is enhancing the quality of education enjoyed by young
10 children with diverse abilities, and in so doing, it is making a
11 difference in the lives of many young Texans and their families that
12 is truly beyond measure; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
14 Legislature hereby honor the Rise School of Corpus Christi and
15 extend to all those involved with the school sincere best wishes for
16 continued success; and, be it further

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