

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1568

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas A&M University alumnus John Ball is embarking
2 on a unique adventure and raising money for a good cause by walking
3 coast-to-coast across the nation during the spring and summer of
4 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Calling himself the "Walking Aggie," this hardy
6 58-year-old pilot from San Antonio plans to walk 2,673 miles from
7 California to Florida in 170 days, arriving in Daytona Beach on
8 August 17; in addition to taking on an arduous challenge, he is also
9 raising money for the Walking Aggie Endowed Ring Scholarship, which
10 will help Texas A&M students of limited means buy the coveted but
11 expensive Aggie Ring, which A&M students who have earned 90 credit
12 hours are eligible to wear; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Ball began his journey on the beach in La Jolla,
14 California, on March 1, 2015, and unlike many other cross-country
15 walkers, he is traveling alone without a support vehicle, carrying
16 everything he needs in a backpack and staying in motels, in his
17 tent, or with Aggie families or other people he meets along the way;
18 supporters and fellow Aggies can follow his progress by reading his
19 daily posts and viewing photographs on the Walking Aggie website;
20 he is also carrying a GPS device, which allows visitors to the
21 website to track his position moment by moment, in real time; and

22 WHEREAS, A 1978 graduate of Texas A&M, Mr. Ball spent 26
23 years in the U.S. Air Force, serving as a C-5 Galaxy transport pilot
24 in Grenada, Panama, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq, as well as

1 completing a two-year stint piloting Air Force Two for vice
2 presidents Al Gore and Dick Cheney; he retired from the air force in
3 2006 at the rank of colonel, and in civilian life, he continues to
4 serve his nation by training air force C-5 pilots in San Antonio;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, By undertaking this rigorous test of endurance,
7 determination, and shoe leather, Mr. Ball is simultaneously
8 helping students of his beloved alma mater and making himself a
9 source of pride and inspiration for Aggies everywhere; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commend John Ball on his ambitious endeavor to
13 create the Walking Aggie Endowed Ring Scholarship and extend to him
14 sincere best wishes for good weather, safe travels, and great
15 success in his undertaking; and, be it further

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