

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The nonprofit Wheelchairs for Warriors is holding
2 its Rolling Strong kickoff fund-raising event in Stafford on
3 September 11, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, This outstanding organization was created to
5 provide customized, enhanced-mobility wheelchairs to veterans and
6 first responders who were severely disabled in the line of duty; and

7 WHEREAS, The base cost for such wheelchairs can run as high as
8 \$30,000, while additional features and adjustments for the
9 individual user can bring the final price to as much as \$100,000;
10 chairs will be tailored to the needs of each recipient, so that they
11 can be controlled, if necessary, by a puff of breath or by the
12 movement of the user's eyes, mouth, chin, head, or finger; and

13 WHEREAS, The first recipients of these state-of-the-art
14 products are Colin Doyle of the U.S. Marine Corps, who was paralyzed
15 from the chest down in Afghanistan, and retired U.S. Army Colonel
16 Rob Harmon, who was injured in a helicopter accident at Fort
17 Campbell; also receiving a custom-designed chair will be U.S.
18 Secret Service agent Garrett Fitzgerald, who was paralyzed from the
19 neck down in an automobile accident while protecting presidential
20 candidate Hillary Clinton in 2015; and

21 WHEREAS, Wheelchairs for Warriors benefits from the guidance
22 of executive director Crystal Laramore, the CEO of Laramore Media
23 Group, and from the expertise of clinical psychologist Dr. Deanna
24 Foster, who serves as president, U.S. Army veteran Heidi Hansing,

1 who leads the group's partnership development, and complex rehab
2 seating specialist Paul Morgan, who plays a vital role in
3 engineering the chairs; serving on the board are U.S. Navy veteran
4 Joe Amato and former U.S. Secret Service agent James Napolitano,
5 while former NFL quarterback Dan Pastorini holds honorary board
6 membership; and

7 WHEREAS, Americans owe a profound debt of gratitude to those
8 military personnel and first responders who put themselves at risk
9 to ensure our safety and security, and Wheelchairs for Warriors
10 promises to play a vital role in providing these brave men and women
11 with the support they so richly deserve; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
13 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the Rolling
14 Strong kickoff fund-raiser for Wheelchairs for Warriors and extend
15 to all those associated with the organization sincere best wishes
16 for success in their important work; and, be it further

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

Cain

H.R. No. 494

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 494 was adopted by the House on August 15, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House