

By: Cain

H.R. No. 494

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.