

By: Capriglione

H.R. No. 718

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Lions Clubs International is celebrating the 100th
2 anniversary of its founding in 2017, and this occasion provides an
3 ideal opportunity to honor the Lions of Texas for their good works;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Established in 1917 by Melvin Jones as the
6 Association of Lions Clubs, the community service organization held
7 its first national convention that year in Dallas, with 12 of the 23
8 participating clubs hailing from Texas; the Lions adopted a prime
9 mission a decade later when Helen Keller urged them to become
10 "Knights of the Blind"; through the years, the organization has
11 undertaken numerous initiatives benefiting the visually impaired
12 while also carrying out many other humanitarian efforts; and

13 WHEREAS, The Lions of Texas have dedicated themselves to
14 supporting such national programs as Sight for Kids, which has
15 provided nearly 20 million screenings, and SightFirst, which raises
16 funds for cataract operations and for programs to fight the other
17 major causes of blindness; in addition, Texas Lions have introduced
18 a number of effective initiatives, among them Journey for Sight and
19 the Juvenile Diabetes Program; the Midland Lions became the first
20 regional recycling center for collecting glasses to send abroad to
21 those in need, and the Lions of Texas have formed five eye banks to
22 assist in the collection and distribution of corneas for
23 transplantation and medical research; and

24 WHEREAS, Since 1949, the Texas Lions Camp has welcomed

1 approximately 70,000 children with physical disabilities and
2 diabetes, providing horseback riding, swimming, campouts, and
3 other outdoor activities; the Lions of Texas also support disaster
4 relief, anti-drug campaigns, and vaccination programs; and

5 WHEREAS, Many Texas Lions have served in key leadership roles
6 with the parent organization, which today has 1.4 million members
7 in over 200 locations around the world; Lions Clubs International
8 was named the top nongovernmental agency in the world by the United
9 Nations in 2012; and

10 WHEREAS, Embodying the motto "We Serve," which has guided
11 Lions Clubs International for more than four decades, the members
12 of the Lions of Texas have made a lasting, positive impact across
13 the state and beyond, and they are truly deserving of special
14 recognition in this centennial year; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
16 Legislature hereby honor the Lions of Texas on the occasion of the
17 100th anniversary of the founding of Lions Clubs International and
18 extend to its members sincere best wishes for continued success in
19 their important endeavors; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the Lions of Texas as an expression of high regard by
22 the Texas House of Representatives.