

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Former NFL placekicker Rolf Benirschke built a  
2 legacy of achievement in his years as a player, and he has further  
3 distinguished himself through his courageous efforts to overcome  
4 serious health issues and to work in behalf of others who face  
5 similar challenges; and

6           WHEREAS, A native of Boston, Mr. Benirschke played football  
7 at the University of California, Davis, before being selected in  
8 the 12th round of the 1977 NFL Draft; he made his professional debut  
9 for the San Diego Chargers later that year, and he went on to spend  
10 his entire decade-long career with that franchise; during his  
11 tenure, he tallied an impressive total of 328 extra points and 146  
12 field goals and earned All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Benirschke's accomplishments are all the more  
14 impressive given that he was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis in  
15 his second NFL season; he overcame that life-threatening ailment to  
16 once again excel on the gridiron, and his comeback was recognized  
17 with numerous awards; he later battled hepatitis C, having  
18 contracted the virus from a blood transfusion, and he underwent  
19 extensive treatment to ultimately be cured of that potentially  
20 deadly disease; and

21           WHEREAS, Motivated by his personal experiences,  
22 Mr. Benirschke has spent more than three and a half decades  
23 supporting patients who live with Crohn's disease, ulcerative  
24 colitis, colorectal and bladder cancer, and other circumstances

1 that can lead to ostomy surgery; he has served as a national  
2 spokesperson for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, which  
3 presented him with a Modell Award for Business Leadership, and has  
4 raised over \$1 million to find a cure for inflammatory bowel  
5 disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Benirschke has also collaborated with the  
7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Liver  
8 Foundation, and other organizations that raise awareness of  
9 hepatitis C; moreover, he created the Rolf Benirschke Legacy  
10 Foundation and the patient support program Kick Hep C, and he  
11 cofounded Legacy Health Strategies; an accomplished author as well,  
12 he has written three books, *Alive & Kicking*, *Great Comebacks from*  
13 *Ostomy Surgery*, and *Embracing Life*; and

14 WHEREAS, Rolf Benirschke is not only an inspiration to  
15 football fans nationwide but also to patients and their families  
16 across the globe, and he is indeed deserving of special recognition  
17 for his many good works; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby honor Rolf Benirschke on his success as an  
20 athlete and as a health advocate and philanthropist and extend to  
21 him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for Mr. Benirschke as an expression of high regard by the  
24 Texas House of Representatives.

Fallon

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

H.R. No. 781

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 781 was adopted by the House on March 8, 2017, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House