

By: Darby

H.R. No. 902

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of Lions Clubs International are
2 celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2017, and this milestone
3 presents a welcome opportunity to reflect on the rich history of
4 this outstanding service organization; and

5 WHEREAS, Founded by Melvin Jones, the International
6 Association of Lions Clubs held its first convention in October
7 1917 at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas; of the original 23 clubs, 12
8 were formed in the Lone Star State; and

9 WHEREAS, A watershed moment occurred in 1927 when Helen
10 Keller addressed the 10th convention of Lions Clubs International
11 and urged attendees to become "Knights of the Blind"; in the years
12 since, members have enthusiastically accepted her challenge,
13 providing assistance to millions of people who suffer from
14 blindness or limited vision through a wide variety of programs; the
15 Lions Clubs International Foundation was created in 1968, and its
16 Sight for Kids program has screened nearly 20 million children,
17 while the SightFirst effort has raised approximately \$500,000 for
18 cataract operations; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1970, Lions Clubs International adopted the motto
20 "We Serve," and members have demonstrated their commitment to that
21 maxim through myriad service efforts of benefit to people around
22 the globe; the One Shot, One Life Lions Measles Initiative provided
23 vaccines to more than 150 million children in 2012, and through
24 fund-matching partnerships with the Bill and Melinda Gates

1 Foundation and other groups, the program has saved millions of
2 lives and raised tens of millions of dollars; in South Africa, fewer
3 than 50 clubs consisting of only 1,250 members feed 60,000 people
4 every day; moreover, Lions have collected over \$1 billion in
5 donations since 1972; and

6 WHEREAS, The Lions Clubs of Texas have originated many of
7 their own service projects, including the Juvenile Diabetes
8 Program, the Journey for Sight fund-raising event, and the Texas
9 Lions Foundation, a disaster relief fund; the Midland Lions Clubs
10 pioneered the practice of sending recycled eyeglasses to people in
11 need overseas, and that program has been adopted by Lions groups
12 around the country; in Texas alone, Lions recycling centers assist
13 in the collection, cataloging, and distribution of 1.5 million
14 pairs of glasses each year; the organization has established five
15 eye banks across the state to help the medical community recover and
16 distribute eye tissue for transplants and research; in addition,
17 the Texas Lions Camp has given approximately 70,000 children with
18 diabetes or disabilities the chance to spend a week camping,
19 horseback riding, and swimming, at no cost to their families; a
20 successful antidrug program was created through the efforts of the
21 Texas Lions, especially those of retired U.S. Air Force brigadier
22 general and Vietnam War POW Robbie Risner; and

23 WHEREAS, Texas Lions are especially proud of the two living
24 past international presidents who hail from the Lone Star State,
25 Jimmy Ross of Quitaque and Everett J. Grindstaff of Ballinger;
26 Lions Clubs International has further benefited from the skilled
27 guidance of such exemplary leaders as its present director, Sam

1 Lindsey, and past international directors Don Buckalew, Ray
2 Hughston, Mike Butler, Marshall Cooper, Connie De La Garza, Beverly
3 Stebbins, and Joe Al Picone; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the years, the Lions organization has been
5 honored by a number of luminaries, including Lion and former
6 President Jimmy Carter, who nominated the club for the Nobel Peace
7 Prize in 2008; the group has also won praise from President Ronald
8 Reagan, who was an honorary Lion, as well as President Anwar Sadat
9 of Egypt, Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, and Pope John
10 Paul II, among many others; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, Lions Clubs International is one of the
12 largest, most respected, and most effective service organizations
13 in the world, with 1.4 million members in 209 locations, and it is a
14 privilege to join in recognizing its century of service to those in
15 need; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
17 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of Lions Clubs
18 International and extend to its members sincere best wishes for
19 continued success with their important work; and, be it further

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