

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Established to empower people with special needs,
2 Hugs Café in McKinney is rendering a significant service to its
3 community; and

4 WHEREAS, The café's founder, Ruth Thompson, moved to McKinney
5 in 2004 and soon began to teach cooking to adults with special
6 needs; holding classes twice a week for 10 years, she helped these
7 individuals develop new skills and become more independent; and

8 WHEREAS, Inspired by the success of her classes, Ms. Thompson
9 decided to open a restaurant that would provide employment for
10 people like her students; with the support of many in the community,
11 she embarked on a successful fund-raising campaign, and the
12 nonprofit Hugs Café welcomed its first customers in 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, The café serves lunch Tuesday through Sunday and
14 features an inviting menu of sandwiches, salads, soups, and
15 desserts; more than 70 percent of the café's teammates are people
16 with intellectual or developmental disabilities, many of whom work
17 part-time and all of whom earn at least minimum wage; Ms. Thompson
18 herself puts in up to 60 hours at the café every week to help ensure
19 its success; and

20 WHEREAS, Hugs Café is offering its employees a chance to
21 build the confidence and self-respect that will help them to live
22 meaningful, rewarding lives, and equally important, the business is
23 encouraging public appreciation for the capabilities and dignity of
24 adults with special needs; now, therefore, be it

H.R. No. 1528

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
2 Legislature hereby honor Hugs Café for valuing the strengths of
3 individuals with special needs and extend to Ms. Thompson and her
4 staff sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Hugs Café as an expression of high regard by the Texas
7 House of Representatives.

Sanford

H.R. No. 1528

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1528 was adopted by the House on May 4, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House