

By: Sanford

H.R. No. 1528

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

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.