

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The boys' track team of Valley High School in
2 Turkey, Texas, reached the pinnacle of success by winning the Class
3 1A state championship at the 2017 University Interscholastic League
4 Track & Field State Meet; and

5 WHEREAS, Joining the other top Texas high school athletes at
6 Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin on May 11 and 12, the Patriots were
7 led in individual events by Jake Merrell, whose times of 9 minutes,
8 38.23 seconds, in the 3,200-meter run, 4 minutes, 23.79 seconds, in
9 the 1,600-meter run, and 1 minute, 54.1 seconds, in the 800-meter
10 run, earned him gold medals in each category, and he now holds the
11 state record in all three events; furthermore, fine performances
12 were turned in by Juan Villarreal in the 100-meter dash and Adrian
13 Espinoza in the 200-meter dash; and

14 WHEREAS, In the team events, Mr. Villarreal and Mr. Espinoza
15 combined forces with Jayton Smith and Dax Allen to clinch the gold
16 medal in the 4x200-meter relay with a time of 1 minute, 30.99
17 seconds, while the quartet of Mr. Villarreal, Mr. Smith,
18 Mr. Allen, and Tristen Schlueter completed the 4x400-meter relay in
19 3 minutes, 29.81 seconds, to win the silver medal; moreover,
20 Mr. Espinoza, Mr. Smith, Mr. Allen, and Joe Carrera contributed to
21 their team's overall points total with a fourth-place finish in the
22 4x100-meter relay; and

23 WHEREAS, Their dominant showing enabled the Patriots to best
24 the runner-up by 24 points, and they earned the distinction of

1 becoming the first track team in school history to win a state
2 crown; throughout the season, these talented student-athletes
3 benefited from the able guidance of head coach Brandon Smith; and

4 WHEREAS, The members of the Valley High boys' track team have
5 excelled through skill, hard work, and an enduring commitment to
6 performing at the highest level, and they are a source of tremendous
7 pride to their classmates and their many supporters in the local
8 community; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
10 Legislature hereby congratulate the Valley High School boys' track
11 team on winning the 2017 UIL 1A state championship and extend to the
12 athletes, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for the future;
13 and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for the Patriots as an expression of high regard by the
16 Texas House of Representatives.

King of Hemphill

H.R. No. 2364

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2364 was adopted by the House on May 28, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House