

By: King of Hemphill

H.R. No. 2364

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.