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By:  Raymond H.R. No. 11

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Tight end Jason Witten announced his retirement from the Dallas Cowboys in May 2018, concluding an illustrious professional football career that spanned 15 seasons; and

WHEREAS, After spending his early childhood in Washington, D.C., Jason Witten moved to Elizabethton, Tennessee, where he garnered numerous honors as a high school player; he went on to attain further glory at the University of Tennessee, finding his niche as the Volunteers' tight end; following an impressive junior season, he was selected by the Cowboys in the third round of the 2003 NFL draft; and

WHEREAS, The longest tenured player to ever wear the Dallas uniform, Mr. Witten holds the franchise records in receptions, receiving yards, catches in a single game, games played and started, and consecutive games played and started; moreover, his impressive total of 1,152 catches ranks fourth best in NFL history; this outstanding athlete further distinguished himself as an 11-time Pro Bowl selection, and he received All-Pro honors on four occasions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Witten is also renowned for his philanthropic work; he established the SCORE Foundation to support a range of worthwhile endeavors, and he has been particularly active in initiatives to reduce domestic violence; in recognition of his efforts, he was named the 2012 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year; and

WHEREAS, An exemplary role model both on and off the field, Jason Witten has earned the lasting respect of his fellow players and the admiration of countless fans, and his superb performance through a decade and a half of NFL competition has earned him a special place in the pantheon of legendary Dallas Cowboys; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor Jason Witten on his successful career with the Dallas Cowboys and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Witten as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.