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By:  White H.R. No. 85

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, W. T. Johnston, head football coach at Newton High School, has distinguished himself as an exemplary mentor who has inspired his players with his leadership and his courageous determination in battling a serious medical challenge; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johnston's most recent gridiron success came during the 2018 season, when he guided his team to the University Interscholastic League 3A Division 2 state championship; this marked the second consecutive state title for the Eagles, who have tallied a perfect record over the past two seasons, winning 30 games in a row; moreover, Newton was the 3A Division 2 runner-up in 2014; and

WHEREAS, These accomplishments are all the more remarkable given that Coach Johnston has dealt with chronic health issues for many years and has been afflicted with a rare life-threatening condition, graft versus host disease, since 2015; on several occasions, he has been told that he only has months to live, but he has persevered, continuing to fulfill his duties as head coach; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his ordeal, this valiant Texan has benefited from the support of those around him; his wife, Debbie, has played an important part in his fight against the disease, and area residents have generously contributed to a fund to offset his medical bills; in addition, the team's coaches and players have assisted in any way they could, and his son, defensive coordinator Drew Johnston, has been particularly important, shouldering many of the coaching responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, By demonstrating an unflagging commitment to excellence regardless of the obstacles before him, W. T. Johnston has become a source of inspiration to his players and to the entire Newton community, and he is indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commend W. T. Johnston on his achievements as head coach of the Newton High School football team and congratulate him on his most recent state championship victory; and, be it further

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