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By:  Guerra H.R. No. 598

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, World Down Syndrome Day is taking place on March 21, 2019, and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to recognize one of the Down syndrome community's most passionate young advocates, 12-year-old Texan Addison Bortnick; and

WHEREAS, Born with Down syndrome, Addison began making her mark on the world even before she learned to speak; her contagious smile and winning personality led her to grace the covers of *Children's Ministry Magazine* and the book *Special Needs Ministry for Children* and to appear in many more magazines and newspapers; and

WHEREAS, As she grew older, Addison began taking an active role in spreading awareness and acceptance for Down syndrome and calling for full inclusion for herself and other students with disabilities; her persistence and optimism have helped her thrive academically, and she has enjoyed sharing her talents through such extracurricular activities as cheerleading and dancing; in all her endeavors, she is guided by her strong faith and her resolute belief in her potential and the potential of other children like herself; and

WHEREAS, Addison has been engaged in promoting many charitable events, including the City of Abilene's ArtWalk, the Rio Grande Valley Down Syndrome Association's Step Up for Down Syndrome Awareness Walk, and the local Buddy Walk organized by the Upside Down Club, of which she is a member; she has also spoken at legislative listening sessions and school board meetings, and she won first place in a 4-H speaking competition; in 2018, she had the great honor of receiving the Easterseals Rio Grande Valley Advocacy Award alongside her mother, Becca Bortnick; and

WHEREAS, Addison Bortnick is a courageous young Texan and a source of immense pride to her loved ones, and she is to be commended for her efforts to inspire others to join her in making the world a better and more welcoming place for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor Addison Bortnick on the occasion of World Down Syndrome Day 2019 and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success as she continues to pursue her dreams; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Addison and her family as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.