86R18658 CW-D

By:  Clardy H.R. No. 833

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Texas native Clint Dempsey announced his retirement from professional soccer in August 2018, drawing to a close an exceptional career that spanned 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Raised in Nacogdoches, Clint Dempsey gained valuable experience as a youth by playing for the Dallas Texans and with a local adult league; he went on to star at Furman University, helping the Paladins secure two NCAA tournament berths and garnering All-American recognition; and

WHEREAS, Opting to turn professional after his junior season, Mr. Dempsey was selected by the New England Revolution as the eighth overall pick in the Major League Soccer draft, and he earned the 2004 MLS Rookie of the Year award to jump-start his three-season stay with the franchise; he next enjoyed a lengthy tenure with the Fulham and Tottenham clubs in the English Premier League, becoming the first American to compete in a major European final; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dempsey was equally impressive as a member of the U.S. men's national squad; he played in his first World Cup tournament in 2006, and he took part in the 2010 and 2014 competitions as well, becoming the first American to score goals in three different World Cups; in addition, he participated in four Gold Cups and is one of the most decorated players in the history of the U.S. men's team; and

WHEREAS, Returning to the MLS in 2013, Mr. Dempsey became a member of the Seattle Sounders; sidelined due to a health issue for much of the team's 2016 league championship run, he returned to the soccer field in 2017, leading Seattle in scoring and helping the team to appear in a second consecutive MLS Cup Final; he received the league's Comeback Player of the Year honor for his achievements that season, and he is also a four-time MLS All-Star; he closed out his career on July 25, 2018, when he played his final professional game with the Sounders; and

WHEREAS, Revered as a trailblazing athlete who distinguished himself in both the U.S. and abroad, Clint Dempsey has earned a place among the all-time great American soccer players, and he has furthered the Lone Star State's reputation for sports excellence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Clint Dempsey on his exemplary professional soccer career 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. Dempsey as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.