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By:  Springer H.R. No. 863

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The boys' track team of Valley High School in Turkey, Texas, reached the pinnacle of success by winning the Class 1A state championship at the 2017 University Interscholastic League Track & Field State Meet; and

WHEREAS, Joining the other top Texas high school athletes at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin on May 11 and 12, the Patriots were led in individual events by Jake Merrell, whose times of 9 minutes, 38.23 seconds, in the 3,200-meter run, 4 minutes, 23.79 seconds, in the 1,600-meter run, and 1 minute, 54.1 seconds, in the 800-meter run, earned him gold medals in each category; furthermore, fine performances were turned in by Juan Villarreal in the 100-meter dash and Adrian Espinoza in the 200-meter dash; and

WHEREAS, In the team events, Mr. Villarreal and Mr. Espinoza combined forces with Jayton Smith and Dax Allen to clinch the gold medal in the 4x200-meter relay with a time of 1 minute, 30.99 seconds, while the quartet of Mr. Villarreal, Mr. Smith, Mr. Allen, and Tristen Schlueter completed the 4x400-meter relay in 3 minutes, 29.81 seconds, to win the silver medal; moreover, Mr. Espinoza, Mr. Smith, Mr. Allen, and Joe Carrera contributed to their team's overall points total with a fourth-place finish in the 4x100-meter relay; and

WHEREAS, Their dominant showing enabled the Patriots to best the runner-up by 24 points, and they earned the distinction of becoming the first track team in school history to win a state crown; throughout the season, these talented student-athletes benefited from the able guidance of head coach Brandon Smith; and

WHEREAS, The members of the 2017 Valley High boys' track team excelled through skill, hard work, and an enduring commitment to performing at the highest level, and they can look back with pride at their exceptional achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Valley High School boys' track team on winning the 2017 UIL 1A state championship and extend to the athletes, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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