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By:  Nevárez H.R. No. 879

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The annual Step by Step for Special Needs event is taking place in Eagle Pass on April 6, 2019; and

WHEREAS, This worthy endeavor was established by Mark Anthony Hernandez with the vision of providing opportunities for students of differing abilities to socialize with and learn from one another; he was inspired to undertake this effort by his brother, Jorge Hernandez, who has Down syndrome, and in 2007, Mark Hernandez joined with his mother, special education teacher Norma Hernandez, to make his dream a reality; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Step by Step for Special Needs event is to promote awareness and acceptance of people of all ages with special needs and to enlist the support of various entities in Eagle Pass to help create meaningful recreational activities for them; the family-friendly event features music, dancing, food, games, and a community-wide awareness walk, and it is made possible by the generosity of a host of sponsors, donors, and volunteers; every year, participants with special needs are recognized during a ceremony, where they each receive an enthusiastic ovation from the crowd and local school cheerleaders; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Step by Step for Special Needs event is organized by the Angels from Heaven Club, a group founded by Norma Hernandez; since its inception, the event has helped bring about a variety of new programs, including a softball league, a fashion show, and cheerleading classes for community members with special needs; the Angels from Heaven Club also hosts Christmas and Valentine's Day celebrations and a community picnic, and the club arranges for its members to go on trips to Disney World, Schlitterbahn, South Padre Island, and other destinations with their peers and families; and

WHEREAS, The Step by Step for Special Needs event is an outstanding example of the good that can be accomplished when caring individuals come together, and by helping to make Eagle Pass a more welcoming and accepting place for all residents, it is making a profound difference in countless lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 2019 Step by Step for Special Needs Event in Eagle Pass and extend to the Angels from Heaven Club and the event's dedicated volunteers and community partners sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Angels from Heaven Club as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.