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By:  Price H.R. No. 966

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Texas American Legion Boys State is celebrating the 80th anniversary of its founding in 2019, providing a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to this outstanding educational program; and

WHEREAS, One of the most respected civics education programs for high school students in the nation, American Legion Boys State brings together participants to learn about government through role-playing exercises, including running for office, organizing a government, and introducing and debating bills in a legislature; the program was created in Illinois in 1934, and the national organization adopted the plan in 1935; today, 48 states conduct a Boys State each year, and the American Legion Auxiliary also sponsors a program for young women called Girls State; and

WHEREAS, At its annual convention in Waco in 1939, the Texas Department of the American Legion mandated the establishment of a Boys State program in the Lone Star State, and the first group of participants met on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin in June 1940; in addition to developing a government complete with elected city, county, and state officials, a legislature, and courts, the youths published a daily newspaper and attended lectures by counselors on such subjects as the U.S. Constitution and the branches of government; and

WHEREAS, Today, several hundred student leaders take part in Boys State each summer at The University of Texas; selected on a competitive basis by local high schools and American Legion posts from across the state, these notable young Texans are mentored by dedicated volunteers who include members of the American Legion, legislators, and former Boys Staters, many of whom have gone on to excel in such fields as education, law, and government; and

WHEREAS, By nurturing the techniques and ideals of our representative republic, Texas American Legion Boys State is helping young people develop the understanding, insight, and skills necessary to become the leaders of tomorrow; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 80th anniversary of American Legion Boys State in Texas and extend to all those associated with the program sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Texas American Legion Boys State as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.