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By:  Bell of Kaufman H.R. No. 1224

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Forney High School softball team reached the pinnacle of success by winning the University Interscholastic League 5A state championship on June 2, 2018, in Austin; and

WHEREAS, Following an impressive showing in the regular season, the Jackrabbits began their exciting playoff run by triumphing over Texarkana Texas High School and went on to best Lewisville The Colony, Sulphur Springs, Mansfield Lake Ridge, and Hallsville to earn a spot in the state tournament; and

WHEREAS, In the semifinals, Forney defeated Barbers Hill by a score of 2-0 to set up a showdown against Richmond Foster High School for the 5A crown; with the game knotted 1-1 in the seventh inning, tournament MVP Savanna DesRochers hit a two-out single that scored two runs, and the Jackrabbits then pushed another run across to take a 4-1 lead; Foster threatened in the bottom of the seventh, but the game ended with an unforgettable catch by senior left fielder Caroline Tedder, who chased down a seemingly unplayable foul ball, snagging it just as she slammed into the railing; the incredible play made ESPN *SportsCenter*'s Top 10 and gave Forney the first softball state championship in school history; the win was all the more special because it closed out a season that was dedicated to former teammate Emily Galiano, who lost her life in a tragic accident the year before; and

WHEREAS, The Jackrabbits' success was the result of a true team effort; in addition to Ms. DesRochers and Ms. Tedder, the roster included Trinity Cannon, Caleigh Cross, Hannah Holdbrook, Samantha Coker, Lexi Brown, Ashleigh Cheek, Brittany Lee, Savannah Hughes, Tatum Stover, Bailey Beal, Charlie Hale, Sadie Hewitt, Georgia Robinson, Jessika Roberts, Vanessa Hollingsworth, and Madison Galiano; these determined athletes were guided by head coach Pat Eitel and assistant coaches Michelle Eitel and Richard Haynes; and

WHEREAS, Through their hard work and unwavering commitment to excellence, the Forney Jackrabbits have become a source of great pride to their school and community, and all those associated with the team will forever cherish the memory of this remarkable accomplishment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Forney High School softball team on winning the 2018 UIL 5A state championship and extend to the players, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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