86R29550 JGH-D

By:  Hinojosa H.R. No. 1545

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Proud members of Austin Junior Forum are celebrating the organization's 50th anniversary in 2019; and

WHEREAS, One of nine Junior Forum chapters across the Lone Star State, Austin Junior Forum was founded by 18 young women on March 28, 1969, as a volunteer nonprofit service organization; today the group has approximately 170 members, including stay-at-home mothers as well as working women, business owners, and other professionals; and

WHEREAS, In 1978 AJF purchased the Daniel H. Caswell House, a beautiful Victorian home in Austin, which serves as the organization's headquarters; the group restored the home and opened it to the public in 1983 as a center for community service and a venue for weddings and events; in one of AJF's earliest fund-raising success stories, members published a best-selling cookbook called *Lone Star Legacy* and used the proceeds to pay off the Caswell House's mortgage in only three years; since its initial printing, the cookbook has sold more than 200,000 copies; and

WHEREAS, Each year AJF members contribute 11,000 hours of volunteer work, and they undertake a number of community service and philanthropic endeavors; among them are the Teddy Bear Program, which provides stuffed animals to first responders to give to children in crisis situations, and the Caswell House Etiquette Class, which not only teaches children dining skills but also appropriate interpersonal skills to help them deal with difficult people and situations; and

WHEREAS, Every holiday season, AJF also hosts its annual Christmas at the Caswell House event, which has raised over $1.3 million for charitable causes since 1983; local organizations supported by the initiative include Any Baby Can, AGE of Central Texas, the Central Texas Food Bank, Foster Angels of Central Texas, Hospice Austin, the Ronald McDonald House, and The Settlement Home for Children; and

WHEREAS, For half a century, the women of Austin Junior Forum have contributed significantly to the quality of life in Austin and Central Texas, and they may indeed take pride in all that they have accomplished as they continue to serve their community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of Austin Junior Forum and extend to its members sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work; and, be it further

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