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By:  Blanco H.R. No. 1631

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The boys' soccer team from Bel Air High School in El Paso reached the pinnacle of success by winning the University Interscholastic League 5A state title on April 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, The championship victory closed out a memorable year in which the Highlanders compiled an exceptional overall record of 28 wins and only 1 loss; after claiming the District 2-5A title, they carried their momentum into the postseason, defeating Canutillo High School 4-0 in the opening round of the playoffs; subsequent victories over Amarillo, Eastlake, Burleson, and Lake Dallas High Schools secured the team's spot in the state tournament for the first time in school history; and

WHEREAS, In the semifinals, Bel Air bested Pharr Valley View in a nail-biting penalty kick shootout to advance to the title showdown against the defending 5A champions from Frisco Wakeland High School; in that contest, the teams were locked in a 1-1 tie after the first half of play, but a Highlander goal with just over 17 minutes remaining proved the game winner, as the Bel Air defense held fast to secure the state crown; and

WHEREAS, Guided by head coach Sergio Delgado and assistant coaches Bryan Carbajal and Pedro Lugo, the Highlanders received valuable contributions throughout the year from each member of the roster: Omar Zamora, Bryan Guzman, Jose Gurrola, Jose Gonzalez, Jaime Cisneros, Oliver Lechuga, Ivar Arroyo, Luis Valenzuela, Gonzalo Padilla, Manuel Castellanos, Brayan Palomec, Bryan Gutierrez, Cedric Carbajal, Brandon Valles, Joshua Santoyo, Yair Alcantar, Hector Prieto, Eduardo Mata, Ernesto Robles, Juan Contreras, Jamil Arroyo, Noel Rios, Sebastian Gonzalez, and Oscar Valenzuela; and

WHEREAS, Bel Air's state championship triumph represents the culmination of countless hours of hard work and an unwavering commitment to excellence, and the athletes and their many supporters in the local community will treasure the memory of this accomplishment for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the boys' soccer team from Bel Air High School on winning the 2019 UIL 5A state championship and extend to the players, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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