

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, W. T. Johnston, head football coach at Newton High
2 School, has distinguished himself as an exemplary mentor who has
3 inspired his players with his leadership and his courageous
4 determination in battling a serious medical challenge; and

5 WHEREAS, Coach Johnston's most recent gridiron success came
6 during the 2018 season, when he guided his team to the University
7 Interscholastic League 3A Division 2 state championship; this
8 marked the second consecutive state title for the Eagles, who have
9 tallied a perfect record over the past two seasons, winning 30 games
10 in a row; moreover, Newton was the 3A Division 2 runner-up in 2014;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, These accomplishments are all the more remarkable
13 given that Coach Johnston has dealt with chronic health issues for
14 many years and has been afflicted with a rare life-threatening
15 condition, graft versus host disease, since 2015; on several
16 occasions, he has been told that he only has months to live, but he
17 has persevered, continuing to fulfill his duties as head coach; and

18 WHEREAS, Throughout his ordeal, this valiant Texan has
19 benefited from the support of those around him; his wife, Debbie,
20 has played an important part in his fight against the disease, and
21 area residents have generously contributed to a fund to offset his
22 medical bills; in addition, the team's coaches and players have
23 assisted in any way they could, and his son, defensive coordinator
24 Drew Johnston, has been particularly important, shouldering many of

1 the coaching responsibilities; and

2 WHEREAS, By demonstrating an unflagging commitment to
3 excellence regardless of the obstacles before him, W. T. Johnston
4 has become a source of inspiration to his players and to the entire
5 Newton community, and he is indeed deserving of special
6 recognition; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commend W. T. Johnston on his achievements as
9 head coach of the Newton High School football team and congratulate
10 him on his most recent state championship victory; and, be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Coach Johnston as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.

White

H.R. No. 85

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 85 was adopted by the House on March 6, 2019, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House