

By: White

H.R. No. 85

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.