

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 598

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, World Down Syndrome Day is taking place on March 21,  
2 2019, and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to recognize  
3 one of the Down syndrome community's most passionate young  
4 advocates, 12-year-old Texan Addison Bortnick; and

5           WHEREAS, Born with Down syndrome, Addison began making her  
6 mark on the world even before she learned to speak; her contagious  
7 smile and winning personality led her to grace the covers of  
8 *Children's Ministry Magazine* and the book *Special Needs Ministry*  
9 *for Children* and to appear in many more magazines and newspapers;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, As she grew older, Addison began taking an active  
12 role in spreading awareness and acceptance for Down syndrome and  
13 calling for full inclusion for herself and other students with  
14 disabilities; her persistence and optimism have helped her thrive  
15 academically, and she has enjoyed sharing her talents through such  
16 extracurricular activities as cheerleading and dancing; in all her  
17 endeavors, she is guided by her strong faith and her resolute belief  
18 in her potential and the potential of other children like herself;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, Addison has been engaged in promoting many  
21 charitable events, including the City of Abilene's ArtWalk, the Rio  
22 Grande Valley Down Syndrome Association's Step Up for Down Syndrome  
23 Awareness Walk, and the local Buddy Walk organized by the Upside  
24 Down Club, of which she is a member; she has also spoken at

1 legislative listening sessions and school board meetings, and she  
2 won first place in a 4-H speaking competition; in 2018, she had the  
3 great honor of receiving the Easterseals Rio Grande Valley Advocacy  
4 Award alongside her mother, Becca Bortnick; and

5 WHEREAS, Addison Bortnick is a courageous young Texan and a  
6 source of immense pride to her loved ones, and she is to be  
7 commended for her efforts to inspire others to join her in making  
8 the world a better and more welcoming place for all; now, therefore,  
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
11 Legislature hereby honor Addison Bortnick on the occasion of World  
12 Down Syndrome Day 2019 and extend to her sincere best wishes for  
13 continued success as she continues to pursue her dreams; and, be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for Addison and her family as an expression of high regard  
17 by the Texas House of Representatives.