

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Over the course of half a century, Special Olympics  
2 Texas has enriched countless lives by introducing individuals with  
3 intellectual disabilities to the transformative experience of  
4 competing in sports; and

5           WHEREAS, The Special Olympics organization was founded in  
6 1963 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who opened a summer day camp to  
7 provide opportunities for children and adults with intellectual  
8 disabilities to explore a variety of sports and physical  
9 activities; in June 1969, the Texas branch of Special Olympics was  
10 established by the association today known as the Arc of Texas, and  
11 its first summer games took place at Paul Tyson Stadium in Waco,  
12 with 10 track and field events and 350 athletes; and

13           WHEREAS, As participation grew, Special Olympics Texas  
14 expanded its competition opportunities; its first-ever winter  
15 games were held in Houston in January 1991, and in 2005, Texas was  
16 among the states selected to run a pilot program for Young Athletes,  
17 a sports play program for children between the ages of two and  
18 seven; in June 2019, the organization is observing the 50th  
19 anniversary of its founding; and

20           WHEREAS, Today, Special Olympics Texas hosts more than 300  
21 events in 22 sports each year, and it has been proud to send  
22 delegates to represent Texas and the United States at international  
23 games in Greece, Ireland, Japan, China, and other countries; it  
24 currently serves more than 58,000 athletes and relies on the vital

1 contributions of over 40,000 volunteers; and

2 WHEREAS, Studies have attested to the myriad benefits of  
3 taking part in the Special Olympics, which include improvements in  
4 social competence and adaptive skills, work performance,  
5 self-esteem, independence, and physical fitness; and

6 WHEREAS, Special Olympics Texas has helped make our state a  
7 place where people of all ages and abilities can enjoy a better  
8 quality of life through sports training, competition, and volunteer  
9 participation, and its outstanding record of service truly merits  
10 wide acclaim; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby honor Special Olympics Texas and express thanks  
13 to the athletes, coaches, and volunteers who have made the  
14 organization the success story that it is today; and, be it further

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

Flynn

Bonnen of Brazoria	Guerra	Oliverson
Allen	Guillen	Ortega
Allison	Gutierrez	Pacheco
Anchia	Harless	Paddie
Anderson	Harris	Parker
Ashby	Hefner	Patterson
Bailes	Hernandez	Paul
Beckley	Herrero	Perez
Bell of Kaufman	Hinojosa	Phelan
Bell of Montgomery	Holland	Price
Bernal	Howard	Ramos
Biedermann	Huberty	Raney
Blanco	Hunter	Raymond
Bohac	Israel	Reynolds
Bonnen of Galveston	E. Johnson of Dallas	Rodriguez
Bowers	J. Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Buckley	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Bucy	Kacal	Rosenthal
Burns	King of Hemphill	Sanford
Burrows	King of Parker	Schaefer
Button	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Cain	Klick	Sheffield
Calanni	Krause	Sherman, Sr.
Canales	Kuempel	Shine
Capriglione	Lambert	Smith
Clardy	Landgraf	Smithee
Cole	Lang	Springer
Coleman	Larson	Stephenson
Collier	Leach	Stickland
Cortez	Leman	Stucky
Craddick	Longoria	Swanson
Cyrier	Lozano	Talarico
Darby	Lucio III	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Metcalf	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Meyer	Toth
Dominguez	Meza	Turner of Dallas
Dutton	Middleton	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miller	VanDeaver
Fierro	Minjarez	Vo
Flynn	Moody	Walle
Frank	Morales	White
Frullo	Morrison	Wilson
Geren	Muñoz, Jr.	Wray
Gervin-Hawkins	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Murr	Zedler
González of Dallas	Neave	Zerwas
González of El Paso	Nevárez	Zwiener
Goodwin	Noble	

H.R. No. 712

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 712 was adopted by the House on March 12, 2019, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House