

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas native Clint Dempsey announced his retirement
2 from professional soccer in August 2018, drawing to a close an
3 exceptional career that spanned 15 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Raised in Nacogdoches, Clint Dempsey gained
5 valuable experience as a youth by playing for the Dallas Texans and
6 with a local adult league; he went on to star at Furman University,
7 helping the Paladins secure two NCAA tournament berths and
8 garnering All-American recognition; and

9 WHEREAS, Opting to turn professional after his junior season,
10 Mr. Dempsey was selected by the New England Revolution as the
11 eighth overall pick in the Major League Soccer draft, and he earned
12 the 2004 MLS Rookie of the Year award to jump-start his three-season
13 stay with the franchise; he next enjoyed a lengthy tenure with the
14 Fulham and Tottenham clubs in the English Premier League, becoming
15 the first American to compete in a major European final; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Dempsey was equally impressive as a member of
17 the U.S. men's national squad; he played in his first World Cup
18 tournament in 2006, and he took part in the 2010 and 2014
19 competitions as well, becoming the first American to score goals in
20 three different World Cups; in addition, he participated in four
21 Gold Cups and is one of the most decorated players in the history of
22 the U.S. men's team; and

23 WHEREAS, Returning to the MLS in 2013, Mr. Dempsey became a
24 member of the Seattle Sounders; sidelined due to a health issue for

1 much of the team's 2016 league championship run, he returned to the
2 soccer field in 2017, leading Seattle in scoring and helping the
3 team to appear in a second consecutive MLS Cup Final; he received
4 the league's Comeback Player of the Year honor for his achievements
5 that season, and he is also a four-time MLS All-Star; he closed out
6 his career on July 25, 2018, when he played his final professional
7 game with the Sounders; and

8 WHEREAS, Revered as a trailblazing athlete who distinguished
9 himself in both the U.S. and abroad, Clint Dempsey has earned a
10 place among the all-time great American soccer players, and he has
11 furthered the Lone Star State's reputation for sports excellence;
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
14 Legislature hereby congratulate Clint Dempsey on his exemplary
15 professional soccer career and extend to him sincere best wishes
16 for the future; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Mr. Dempsey as an expression of high regard by the
19 Texas House of Representatives.

Clardy

H.R. No. 833

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 833 was adopted by the House on March 21, 2019, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House