

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 879

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The annual Step by Step for Special Needs event is
2 taking place in Eagle Pass on April 6, 2019; and

3 WHEREAS, This worthy endeavor was established by Mark Anthony
4 Hernandez with the vision of providing opportunities for students
5 of differing abilities to socialize with and learn from one
6 another; he was inspired to undertake this effort by his brother,
7 Jorge Hernandez, who has Down syndrome, and in 2007, Mark Hernandez
8 joined with his mother, special education teacher Norma Hernandez,
9 to make his dream a reality; and

10 WHEREAS, The mission of the Step by Step for Special Needs
11 event is to promote awareness and acceptance of people of all ages
12 with special needs and to enlist the support of various entities in
13 Eagle Pass to help create meaningful recreational activities for
14 them; the family-friendly event features music, dancing, food,
15 games, and a community-wide awareness walk, and it is made possible
16 by the generosity of a host of sponsors, donors, and volunteers;
17 every year, participants with special needs are recognized during a
18 ceremony, where they each receive an enthusiastic ovation from the
19 crowd and local school cheerleaders; and

20 WHEREAS, Today, the Step by Step for Special Needs event is
21 organized by the Angels from Heaven Club, a group founded by Norma
22 Hernandez; since its inception, the event has helped bring about a
23 variety of new programs, including a softball league, a fashion
24 show, and cheerleading classes for community members with special

1 needs; the Angels from Heaven Club also hosts Christmas and
2 Valentine's Day celebrations and a community picnic, and the club
3 arranges for its members to go on trips to Disney World,
4 Schlitterbahn, South Padre Island, and other destinations with
5 their peers and families; and

6 WHEREAS, The Step by Step for Special Needs event is an
7 outstanding example of the good that can be accomplished when
8 caring individuals come together, and by helping to make Eagle Pass
9 a more welcoming and accepting place for all residents, it is making
10 a profound difference in countless lives; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2019 Step by Step for Special
13 Needs Event in Eagle Pass and extend to the Angels from Heaven Club
14 and the event's dedicated volunteers and community partners sincere
15 best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the Angels from Heaven Club as an expression of high
18 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.