

By: Hinojosa

H.R. No. 1545

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of Austin Junior Forum are celebrating
2 the organization's 50th anniversary in 2019; and

3 WHEREAS, One of nine Junior Forum chapters across the Lone
4 Star State, Austin Junior Forum was founded by 18 young women on
5 March 28, 1969, as a volunteer nonprofit service organization;
6 today the group has approximately 170 members, including
7 stay-at-home mothers as well as working women, business owners, and
8 other professionals; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1978 AJF purchased the Daniel H. Caswell House, a
10 beautiful Victorian home in Austin, which serves as the
11 organization's headquarters; the group restored the home and opened
12 it to the public in 1983 as a center for community service and a
13 venue for weddings and events; in one of AJF's earliest
14 fund-raising success stories, members published a best-selling
15 cookbook called *Lone Star Legacy* and used the proceeds to pay off
16 the Caswell House's mortgage in only three years; since its initial
17 printing, the cookbook has sold more than 200,000 copies; and

18 WHEREAS, Each year AJF members contribute 11,000 hours of
19 volunteer work, and they undertake a number of community service
20 and philanthropic endeavors; among them are the Teddy Bear Program,
21 which provides stuffed animals to first responders to give to
22 children in crisis situations, and the Caswell House Etiquette
23 Class, which not only teaches children dining skills but also
24 appropriate interpersonal skills to help them deal with difficult

1 people and situations; and

2 WHEREAS, Every holiday season, AJF also hosts its annual
3 Christmas at the Caswell House event, which has raised over \$1.3
4 million for charitable causes since 1983; local organizations
5 supported by the initiative include Any Baby Can, AGE of Central
6 Texas, the Central Texas Food Bank, Foster Angels of Central Texas,
7 Hospice Austin, the Ronald McDonald House, and The Settlement Home
8 for Children; and

9 WHEREAS, For half a century, the women of Austin Junior Forum
10 have contributed significantly to the quality of life in Austin and
11 Central Texas, and they may indeed take pride in all that they have
12 accomplished as they continue to serve their community; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of Austin
16 Junior Forum and extend to its members sincere best wishes for
17 continued success in their important work; and, be it further

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