

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 335

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Today, Special Olympics Texas hosts more than 300 events in 22 sports each year, and it has been proud to send delegates to represent Texas and the United States at international games in Greece, Ireland, Japan, China, and other countries; it currently serves more than 58,000 athletes and relies on the vital contributions of over 40,000 volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Studies have attested to the myriad benefits of taking part in the Special Olympics, which include improvements

in social competence and adaptive skills, work performance, self-esteem, independence, and physical fitness; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Special Olympics Texas as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

Hancock

Alvarado	Huffman	Paxton
Bettencourt	Hughes	Perry
Birdwell	Johnson	Powell
Buckingham	Kolkhorst	Rodríguez
Campbell	Lucio	Schwertner
Creighton	Menéndez	Seliger
Fallon	Miles	Taylor
Flores	Nelson	Watson
Hall	Nichols	Whitmire
Hinojosa		Zaffirini

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 12, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate