RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas William Pruett of Lake Jackson is being honored for his many years of mission work and community service at an event hosted by the Rotary Club of Brazosport on October 16, 2021; and

WHEREAS, An alumnus of the Schreiner Institute in Kerrville and Texas Tech University, Tom Pruett graduated with honors as a member of the inaugural class of the College of Optometry at the University of Houston in 1955; he subsequently settled in Lake Jackson, and in 1981, he organized his first eye clinic in Juarez, Mexico, which was sponsored by the First United Methodist Church; he continued to conduct similar work until 1985, when a $160,000 grant from Rotary International enabled the expansion of the clinics to the entire state of Chihuahua; additionally, another grant funded the construction of a permanent facility in Guerrero, a site that remains in operation today and provides a significant portion of indigent health care for the region; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pruett has gone on to complete 111 mission trips to Mexico over the past four decades, during which time he has performed more than 10,000 eye exams, prescribed and fitted over 10,000 pairs of glasses, and inspired the efforts of the more than 500 volunteers who have joined the initiative; the clinics in Mexico provide over $5 million in free medical treatment each year in the areas of general medicine, dentistry, gynecology, and plastic surgery, in addition to eye care and surgery; and
WHEREAS, Admired for his civic engagement, Dr. Pruett has been recognized as the Brazosport Outstanding Man of the Year and was the first recipient of the Rotary International Service Above Self Award; among his many other accolades, he has been honored with the Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Public Health Association and the Community Builder Award from Lake Jackson Masonic Lodge No. 1317; for nearly six decades, Dr. Pruett enjoyed the love and support of his wife, the late Carolyn Pruett, and today he takes great pride in his two children, Tamara and Thomas, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Through his compassion, generosity, and tremendous dedication, Tom Pruett has made a positive difference in the lives of innumerable people, and his outstanding contributions will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Dr. Thomas Pruett for his many years of community service and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Dr. Pruett as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.