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By:  Rodriguez H.R. No. 192

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The football team from the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin closed out an unforgettable season by capturing the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Six-Man Division I state championship on December 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, TSD was forced to switch from 11-man to six-man football for the first time in its history during 2020; undeterred, the Rangers claimed the TAPPS District 5 title and then maintained their momentum in the playoffs; they defeated Logos Preparatory Academy before knocking off San Marcos Academy to advance to the state title contest; and

WHEREAS, Matching up against the previously unbeaten squad from Veritas Academy in the finale, TSD took an early 22-8 lead in the first quarter and never looked back; when the final seconds ticked away, the Rangers brought the year to a triumphant end with a 63-32 victory, earning the first football state championship in the 164-year history of the school; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the TSD players was the result of an exceptional team effort, with valuable contributions being made by each member of the roster; a total of eight players received All-District honors, and Jordan Leeper, Zarek Nathanson, and Russell Rohde were honored by the *Austin American-Statesman* for their exceptional efforts in the championship game; the Rangers were guided throughout their winning season by head coach John Moore Jr. and assistant coaches Joshua Moore, Harvey Nathanson, and Al Reins; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating inspiring perseverance during a season that was nearly cancelled because of the pandemic, the TSD team earned national attention from such media outlets as NBC's *Today* show and ESPN's *SportsCenter*; the Rangers' achievement was all the more special in that it marked a new level of football success for an institution that is considered one of the oldest continually operating public schools in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Winning a state championship is a daunting task that requires countless hours of hard work and an unwavering commitment to excellence, and the members of the Texas School for the Deaf football team may take justifiable pride in their historic accomplishments on the gridiron; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Texas School for the Deaf football team on winning the 2020 TAPPS Six-Man Division I state championship and extend to the team's players, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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