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By:  Longoria H.R. No. 635

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, For six years, volunteers with the organization Emily's Meals have set an inspiring example of compassion toward people experiencing homelessness in the McAllen community; and

WHEREAS, The organization began in 2015, after six-year-old Emily Aguirre saw a homeless man while running errands with her father, Rick Aguirre; the caring young girl asked her father how the man lived and where he was going to find food, and after reflecting on his daughter's concerns, Mr. Aguirre decided to purchase a meal for the man; this act of kindness proved to be the first of many for the members of the Aguirre family, who committed themselves to the goal of feeding one homeless person every day for the 40 days of Lent; and

WHEREAS, That original goal led the Aguirres to launch Emily's Meals in 2015; they began by preparing meals in their home to deliver to homeless and hungry individuals, and as more volunteers joined the cause, they have since been able to distribute between 40 and 50 meals each day, for a total of more than 10,000 meals annually; the organization also provides such items as clothing, tents, bicycles, running shoes, bus tickets, and toiletries, and they work to connect homeless people with local agencies that can further help them; beyond simply feeding and offering supplies, volunteers with Emily's Meals take the time to learn the names, stories, needs, hopes, and fears of the people they serve, encouraging empathy and understanding for a population that can sometimes go overlooked; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, Emily's Meals became an official ministry of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church; that same year, the organization held the first of a series of picnics, where homeless clients could receive meals, get a free haircut, shop for donated clothing, and access needed services such as blood tests, health checkups, and mental health evaluations; the organization also has a shower truck and a small food pantry that is located on the grounds of the Palmer Drug Abuse Program; and

WHEREAS, Emily's Meals has touched the lives of countless individuals who might otherwise go without sustenance and support, and the Aguirre family and the organization's volunteers are indeed deserving of recognition for their generous efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend Emily Aguirre and the Aguirre family for their dedicated work with Emily's Meals and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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