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By:  Canales H.R. No. 651

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley chess team has once again earned the mantle of national champion by winning the 2021 President's Cup tournament, which was held virtually in April; and

WHEREAS, UT Rio Grande Valley's journey to the title began with strong showings in several events, including wins at the Kasparov Chess Foundation University Cup and the international FIDE World University Online Blitz Championship; the team qualified for the President's Cup following a successful run at the Pan American Intercollegiate Championship in January; and

WHEREAS, UTRGV competed against the top schools in the nation at the President's Cup, the Final Four of collegiate chess that is hosted by the United States Chess Federation; overtaking Saint Louis University in the final match, the Texas team claimed the program's third consecutive President's Cup title and retained its first-place rankings from 2018 and 2019; no tournament was held in 2020 because of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The highest rated player from the UTRGV team, grandmaster Kamil Dragun won third place in individual scores; the team also received valuable contributions from grandmasters Mateusz Bartel, Hovhannes Gabuzyan, and Vladimir Belous, who respectively came in fifth, sixth, and seventh; over the course of the year, these talented players benefited from the able guidance of coach Bartek Macieja; and

WHEREAS, By accomplishing the rare feat of winning three consecutive President's Cup crowns, the members of the UT Rio Grande Valley team have furthered their school's exceptional record of achievement in chess, and they may indeed reflect with pride on a job well done; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley chess team on winning the 2021 President's Cup tournament and extend to all those associated with the program 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.