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By:  Leman H.R. No. 679

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Iola High School volleyball team proved itself one of the finest in Texas by winning the 2020 University Interscholastic League 2A state championship; and

WHEREAS, Following an impressive performance during the regular season, the Lady Bulldogs continued to excel in the playoffs, dispatching Malakoff Cross Roads, Colmesneil, Evadale, and Gary High Schools to reach the regional final; there, Iola defeated Beckville High in four games, and the team went on to easily best Thrall High in the semifinals to punch its ticket to the November 21 state finale in Garland; and

WHEREAS, Iola battled for the crown against Crawford High School in a rematch of the 2017 title game; determined to avenge that loss, the Lady Bulldogs built a two-set lead by the scores of 25-21 and 25-20; the momentum shifted in the third frame when Crawford broke a 15-all tie and went on to force a fourth game; demonstrating tremendous poise and confidence down the stretch, the Lady Bulldogs dominated at the net to prevail 25-17, claiming the third state championship in program history; Iola ended its 2020 campaign with an exceptional record of 30 wins and just one defeat; and

WHEREAS, The Lady Bulldogs were led by championship game Most Valuable Player Cadence Hoyle, who racked up 26 kills in the title match and was joined on the 2A All-Tournament Team by Jenna McDougald and Ava Pointer; Iola also received valuable contributions throughout the year from the other members of the roster: Brooke Smithey, Lacey Wheaton, Anna Barnett, Chloe Vaughn, and Lindsey Gooch; these talented student-athletes were ably guided by head coach Jamie McDougald and assistants Steve Westbrook and John Reed; and

WHEREAS, Through countless hours of hard work and an unwavering commitment to excellence, the Iola Lady Bulldogs realized their season-long goal of becoming state champions, and they are a source of great pride to their school and to their many supporters in the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Iola High School volleyball team on winning the 2020 UIL 2A 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 Iola Lady Bulldogs as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.