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By:  Ellzey H.R. No. 807

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The football team of Ennis High School put together an exceptional season in 2020, achieving a No. 1 ranking, winning the district championship, and advancing to the area finals of the state playoffs; and

WHEREAS, Despite a difficult regular season schedule that included matchups against six playoff qualifiers, the Lions proved unstoppable, besting each of their opponents by 24 points or more; armed with a high-powered offensive attack and a stout defense, the Lions compiled a perfect record of 8 wins and 0 losses en route to claiming the district crown; and

WHEREAS, The Lions continued their dominant play in the postseason opener, as they secured a decisive 49-0 victory over the squad from Liberty High School; in a hard-fought area round matchup, Ennis battled Mansfield Timberview High School, but ultimately fell to the Wolves, bringing a memorable season to a close; and

WHEREAS, Paced by quarterback Collin Drake, who was honored with as the district Most Valuable Player, Ennis received valuable contributions from each member of the roster over the course of the season; these dedicated athletes were guided by head coach Sam Harrell, who continued his inspiring comeback story; this respected mentor led the Lions to three state championships in the early 2000s but was forced to step away from the team in 2010 due to a lengthy struggle against multiple sclerosis; after undergoing treatment, he regained his health and made his courageous return to the program in 2018; the team further benefited from the expertise of assistant coaches Brent Falls, Hank Hollywood, and Joe Kostiha and the support of statistician Brooke Sereika; and

WHEREAS, With their notable accomplishments on the gridiron during 2020, the members of this Lions football team have earned the admiration of their fellow students and their many community supporters, 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 Ennis High School football team on a successful 2020 season and extend to the team's players, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for the future; 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.