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By:  Price H.R. No. 1949

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, For more than a decade, Hal Talton has distinguished himself through his exemplary service as chief of staff and general counsel to State Representative Four Price; and

WHEREAS, Since joining Representative Price's office in January 2011, Mr. Talton has devoted himself tirelessly to meeting the needs of constituents in House District 87, and he has worked to promote rural areas in order to ensure they are recognized for their value in providing Texans and the world with food, fuel, and fiber; he has championed greater access to broadband and health care for rural areas, including hospitals, telemedicine, and telehealth, and he has been instrumental in making sure that rural communities have equal access to match grant funding for mental health programs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Talton's dedication to advancing health care extends throughout Texas, and his interest in this issue has led him to tour numerous hospitals, health science universities, and state-supported living centers; he has also sought to ensure that mental health is taken as seriously as other health conditions, working to secure insurance parity for persons with mental illness and striving to improve student mental health and the nexus between mental health and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, This skilled public servant has been instrumental to the passage of much legislation and has played a vital role in Representative Price's accomplishments, including assistance for injured Texans, the brain health of student-athletes, and the reorganization for greater efficiency of the state's health care agencies during the Sunset Commission process as well as bills addressing water issues, the potential expansion of Interstate 27, broadband, and health care; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his tenure, Mr. Talton has made frequent visits to the Panhandle area; he has met with local elected officials and school superintendents, and he has toured oil refineries, schools, universities, cattle feed yards, irrigation sites, wind farms, health care sites, and the facilities of Bell; in Austin, he has been an inspiring mentor to many newcomers to the legislative process and a welcoming host to visitors to Representative Price's office at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Talton earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from East Texas State University, and he received his law degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; he also holds a graduate certificate in health care administration from Texas State University; and

WHEREAS, Hal Talton's passion for the lawmaking process, dedication to good public policy, and commitment to excellence have greatly benefited citizens in House District 87 and throughout Texas and earned him the respect and admiration of his peers at the State Capitol and beyond, and he may indeed reflect with pride on his many contributions to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Hal Talton on his outstanding service as chief of staff and general counsel to State Representative Four Price and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in his important work; and, be it further

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