

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Smiles from Heaven, a nonprofit organization
2 founded in 2019, is making a positive impact in the lives of
3 children who are battling cancer; and

4 WHEREAS, Ray and Betsy Sanchez established Smiles from Heaven
5 in loving memory of their two-year-old daughter, Bella Serena
6 Sanchez, who passed away on April 9, 2019, following her fight with
7 leukemia; the organization is dedicated to promoting childhood
8 cancer awareness and to giving support, assistance, and hope to
9 children and families receiving treatment for pediatric cancer or
10 blood disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, Cancer is the leading cause of disease-related death
12 for children past infancy in the United States; each year,
13 approximately 175,000 families around the world hear the
14 devastating news that their child has cancer, but thanks to
15 improvements in treatment, more than 80 percent of patients with
16 pediatric cancer in the U.S. will become long-term survivors; and

17 WHEREAS, Since its inception, Smiles from Heaven has
18 advocated for childhood cancer awareness throughout the state and
19 nation in partnership with Be the Match, the South Texas Blood and
20 Tissue Center, and GenCure; it has cumulatively served over 1,000
21 families, provided free travel totaling more than 1,000 miles to
22 specialized treatment centers, and donated some 21,000 miles worth
23 of fuel to help allay families' travel expenses; in addition to
24 offering financial assistance, the organization hosts support

1 groups and other programs to help parents and children cope with the
2 emotional stresses that accompany a cancer diagnosis; and

3 WHEREAS, Smiles from Heaven has been a source of
4 compassionate guidance to South Texas families going through a
5 difficult and uncertain journey, and it is a pleasure to recognize
6 this commendable organization and the inspiring work it has
7 accomplished; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
9 Legislature hereby honor Smiles from Heaven for its service to and
10 advocacy in behalf of children living with cancer and extend to all
11 those affiliated with the organization sincere best wishes for the
12 future; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
15 Texas House of Representatives.

Raymond

H.R. No. 169

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 169 was adopted by the House on March 10, 2021, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House