

By: Canales

H.R. No. 651

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley chess team
2 has once again earned the mantle of national champion by winning the
3 2021 President's Cup tournament, which was held virtually in April;
4 and

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

11 WHEREAS, UTRGV competed against the top schools in the nation
12 at the President's Cup, the Final Four of collegiate chess that is
13 hosted by the United States Chess Federation; overtaking Saint
14 Louis University in the final match, the Texas team claimed the
15 program's third consecutive President's Cup title and retained its
16 first-place rankings from 2018 and 2019; no tournament was held in
17 2020 because of the pandemic; and

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

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

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
7 Legislature hereby congratulate The University of Texas Rio Grande
8 Valley chess team on winning the 2021 President's Cup tournament
9 and extend to all those associated with the program sincere best
10 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the team as an expression of high regard by the Texas
13 House of Representatives.