WHEREAS, The chess team of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley continued its tradition of excellence by winning the 2021 President's Cup tournament, claiming its third consecutive title in this prestigious event; and

WHEREAS, Joining the other three top collegiate teams in the country for the President's Cup virtual competition on April 3 and 4, the UTRGV players staged an impressive comeback, overtaking Saint Louis University on the final day of the tournament to win the championship; the "three-peat" triumph follows first-place cup finishes in 2018 and 2019, with the 2020 event being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The Vaqueros were paced by grandmaster Kamil Dragun, who placed third in the individual scoring; grandmasters Mateusz Bartel, Hovhannes Gabuzyan, and Vladimir Belous also contributed to the team's point total, finishing fifth, sixth, and seventh, respectively; the team also received valuable contributions throughout the year from the other members of the roster: Vladimir Fedoseev, Sanan Syugirov, Ildar Khayrullin, Irakli Beradze, Ulvi Bajarani, Felix Ynojosa, Yannick Rajesh Kambrath, and Askar Nursbekov; these accomplished players benefited from the leadership and support of head coach Bartlomiej Macieja, associate dean of students Douglas Stoves, and program manager Aleksander Mista; and

WHEREAS, The 2020-2021 season also marked the first time UTRGV sent its women's players into competition; the individuals
who proudly represented their school included Yuliia Osmak, Alicja Sliwicka, Julia Antolak, Ana Shamatava, Lauren Tovias, and Lorena Garcia Ramon; and

WHEREAS, Through the skill, hard work, and unwavering determination of its members, the UTRGV chess program has established itself as one of the most successful in the nation, and all those associated with the team are to be commended for their achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley chess team on winning the 2021 President's Cup tournament and extend to the players 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.