88R19944 TBO-D

By:  Howard H.R. No. 907

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Every year, approximately 90,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a neurodegenerative disorder that causes a progressive decline in motor function and is often accompanied by other life-changing symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Patients with Parkinson's disease may experience tremors, slowed movements, rigid muscles, impaired posture and balance, and difficulties with actions such as speaking and writing; these symptoms vary in their severity from person to person and become worse as the disorder progresses; in many cases, patients also suffer from depression, chronic pain, and sleep disorders, and in advanced stages, some experience dementia and psychosis; and

WHEREAS, Currently, nearly one million individuals in the United States are suffering from Parkinson's disease caused by the loss of the nerve cells in the brain that produce dopamine; research from Johns Hopkins Medicine indicates that only about 15 percent of Parkinson's disease cases derive from genetics passed down from parent to child; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States; it also greatly impacts millions of Americans who are caregivers, family members, and friends of affected individuals, and the annual economic burden of Parkinson's disease is estimated to be as much as $52 billion in direct and indirect costs; and

WHEREAS, Because there is no known cure for Parkinson's disease, medical care is currently aimed at lessening the symptoms, slowing the disease's progression, and helping patients achieve the best quality of life possible; some research has demonstrated that regular exercise can slow or even reverse the effects of the disease; and

WHEREAS, Every April, Parkinson's Awareness Month serves as a means of focusing attention on the disease and promoting research into new treatments and potential cures; one organization taking part in this campaign is Power for Parkinson's, a Texas-based nonprofit that has been instrumental in raising awareness and advocating in behalf of people affected by Parkinson's disease; established in 2013, the organization offers free in-person and online fitness, dance, and singing classes for patients and their care partners, and it provides a wide range of informative resources such as support groups, workshops with experts, and social events; this year, it is hosting an event on April 15 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, As the worldwide incidence of Parkinson's disease continues to rise at alarming rates, with the disease expected to affect twice as many people by 2040, the search for a cure is becoming an increasingly urgent priority, and Power for Parkinson's is to be commended for its efforts to address this devastating condition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 2023 as Parkinson's Awareness Month and honor Power for Parkinson's on the occasion of its 10th anniversary; and, be it further

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