88R30667 JRI-D

By:  Price H.R. No. 2044

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Michael "Spanky" Stephens was inducted into the Kinesiology and Health Education Hall of Honor at The University of Texas at Austin in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Hall of Honor recognizes the achievements and contributions of KHE faculty, former students, and members of professional fields related to physical activity and health; induction is based on an individual's leadership, professional involvement, service, or academic research; and

WHEREAS, A native of Bellville, Spanky Stephens is a graduate of the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education at UT Austin; after beginning his career in 1967 as a student athletic trainer as an undergraduate, he was hired as the school's first assistant athletic trainer; he served in that role for eight years before being selected as head athletic trainer in 1978; over the course of his more than three decades with the university, he worked with nine NCAA championship teams and oversaw a student program that produced hundreds of high school and college athletic trainers; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Mr. Stephens was named executive director of the Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association, where he has been instrumental in promoting the athletic training profession and advocating for the safety of athletes throughout the state; his many achievements in this role include helping to create a sports medicine track for Texas high school students, and he was integral to the passage of "Natasha's Law," which established a protocol for dealing with student-athletes suspected of having sustained a concussion; the law became a model for states across the country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens is a member of the Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Honor, the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame, the All-American Football Foundation Hall of Honor, the UT Athletics Hall of Honor, and the Bellville High School Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, The impact of Spanky Stephens's contributions will continue to resonate in the Lone Star State for years to come, and he is indeed deserving of this prestigious honor for his unwavering commitment to the health and safety of student-athletes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Michael "Spanky" Stephens on his induction into the Kinesiology and Health Education Hall of Honor at The University of Texas at Austin and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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