

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 1077

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The untimely passing of former Olympic track athlete  
2 Eric Thomas of Houston on December 30, 2022, at the age of 49,  
3 brought a heartbreaking loss to his family, friends, and  
4 colleagues; and

5           WHEREAS, Eric Thomas was born on December 1, 1973, in  
6 Garrison and grew up with the company of five siblings; following  
7 his father's death, his mother raised the children on her own, and  
8 she instilled in Eric a work ethic that would come to define his  
9 life; a standout athlete at Garrison High School, he was awarded  
10 track and football scholarships from Blinn College; his exceptional  
11 ability as a hurdler became evident as a freshman, and the next  
12 year, he set a National Junior College Athletic Association track  
13 record in the 400-meter hurdles; he went on to earn All-American  
14 track honors at Abilene Christian University; and

15           WHEREAS, One of the top-ranked 400-meter hurdlers in the  
16 world from 1993 through 2003, Mr. Thomas was a U.S. champion, and he  
17 claimed a top-15 finish at the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney,  
18 Australia; moreover, he collected two silver medals at the Pan  
19 American Games; and

20           WHEREAS, Following his retirement from track competition,  
21 Mr. Thomas remained actively involved in the sport, founding  
22 Houston-based Champion Trainers in 2005 and conducting sports camps  
23 in Garrison; dedicated to improving the health and fitness of Texas  
24 youth, he established the Eric Thomas Foundation, which provides

1 scholarships and support to individuals in underserved  
2 communities; he further distinguished himself by creating the  
3 Hurdling Over Obesity and Diabetes program; his generosity and  
4 civic engagement were widely appreciated, and he was beloved by  
5 numerous people in Texas and around the globe; and

6 WHEREAS, A humble hometown hero who gained international  
7 acclaim, Eric Thomas inspired countless track fans and competitors,  
8 and his many achievements will continue to be remembered and  
9 admired for years to come; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Eric Thomas and  
12 extend deepest condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Eric  
17 Thomas.