

By: Price

H.R. No. 2044

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, In 2001, Mr. Stephens was named executive director
19 of the Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association, where he has
20 been instrumental in promoting the athletic training profession and
21 advocating for the safety of athletes throughout the state; his
22 many achievements in this role include helping to create a sports
23 medicine track for Texas high school students, and he was integral
24 to the passage of "Natasha's Law," which established a protocol for

1 dealing with student-athletes suspected of having sustained a
2 concussion; the law became a model for states across the country;
3 and

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

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

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

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