

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53**

**WHEREAS**, Sonny James Equine Ministries of Aledo is making a positive difference in the lives of youth in North Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Founder and executive director Cherie Morton was inspired to start SJEM in 2016 while providing horse boarding facilities to a number of young riders in the area; with their help, she embarked on creating an equestrian team that would enable its members to strengthen their confidence, discipline, and Christian faith in addition to their horsemanship skills; the following year, Mrs. Morton and her husband, Johnny, formally established the nonprofit organization Sonny James Equine Ministries, which is named for the couple's daughters, Sonny and James; and

**WHEREAS**, SJEM sponsors a wide range of initiatives for middle school- through high school-age students of all riding abilities; in addition to offering riding instruction and riding camps, SJEM conducts equine education and training activities and enables members to compete on its Horsemanship, Ranch Horse, and Rodeo Teams; moreover, the Fellowship Team is focused on faith-based activities and community volunteer projects; and

**WHEREAS**, By fostering positive values and inspiring youth to realize their potential as engaged citizens and leaders, Sonny James Equine Ministries is helping young Texans to build a strong foundation for the future, and all those associated with the organization may reflect with pride on their achievements; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby recognize Sonny James Equine Ministries for its dedicated efforts to benefit area youth and extend to Cherie

and Johnny Morton and the group's members and staff sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Sonny James Equine Ministries as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

King

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 18, 2025.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate