

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 557

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas takes great pride in recognizing outstanding landmarks that reflect the rich history, culture, and community spirit of our great state; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tomato Bowl in Jacksonville recently emerged as the top high school stadium in Texas in a statewide contest conducted by *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine that received more than 130,000 votes; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tomato Bowl holds a unique place in Texas history; it was designed in the 1930s and constructed in the early 1940s through the support of the Federal Works Progress Administration and the vision of the Jacksonville Independent School District; and

**WHEREAS**, Shaped by the determined labor of local workmen, many of whom moved tons of soil by hand before the stadium's completion, the Tomato Bowl was built on the site of the city's former East Side School; it features rock walls and a fieldhouse built from stones and red iron ore gathered from area farms, and the hillside was reshaped for stadium seating overlooking the field and town; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tomato Bowl, although unfinished at the time, proudly hosted its first game on September 27, 1940, when Jacksonville High School's football team took the field against Dallas Technical High School before a crowd of nearly 1,900; the stadium underwent a major renovation in 2019 that preserved its historic integrity while ensuring its continued service to future generations of students, athletes, and fans; and

**WHEREAS**, One of the few remaining downtown stadiums in Texas, the Tomato Bowl continues to be a symbol of community

pride; bolstered by 85 years of tradition and school spirit, student athletes proudly compete on the field amidst the sounds of passing train horns and cheers from celebrating families and loyal fans; and

**WHEREAS**, The statewide recognition from *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* is a testament to the cherished history of this area and to the unwavering support of the Jacksonville community who honor the legacy and spirit of this beloved venue; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby commend the Jacksonville Independent School District on preserving the historic and architectural significance of the Tomato Bowl and extend to all in the Jacksonville community congratulations on the stadium's recent statewide distinction and best wishes for the future; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the school district as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Nichols

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 26, 2025.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate