

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS volunteers provide invaluable support to our Texas public schools through the donation of their time, talent and financial resources; and

WHEREAS the State Board of Education today celebrates the service of 15 volunteers and marks the 25th anniversary of the Heroes for Children program and the life-changing work of school volunteers; and

WHEREAS Maria Estevane last school year volunteered more than 2,250 hours of service to the Laredo Independent School District and helped create a legion of parent volunteers; and

WHEREAS Anita Garcia is said to add glitter and joy to every project she undertakes, including voluntarily teaching a theater class and serving on numerous committees in La Joya ISD; and

WHEREAS Julia Saenz serves as president of the La Joya ISD School Health Advisory Committee and serves on numerous other committees while also assisting with special events and activities; and

WHEREAS Juan Sorto mentors 115 students in Houston ISD and organized events to provide students with food, medicine, and educational supplies after Hurricane Harvey devastated neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS Sheryl Westwick continues her family tradition of long years of school volunteerism as she assists struggling students in the Austin and Eanes school districts; and

WHEREAS Julie Hinaman serves as a Bus Buddy and chairs the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Community Leadership Committee that encourages advocacy in support of public education; and

WHEREAS Brenda George created the Stop. Talk. Overcome. Pain (STOP) organization to combat a rash of student suicide attempts in Brazosport ISD; and

WHEREAS Linda Sparks mentors students and helps with everything from reading groups to copying and laminating jobs in Conroe ISD where she has been recognized with the Friend of Education Award; and

WHEREAS Ashley Gibbs has volunteered more than 1,000 hours in Pleasant Grove ISD and co-chaired a political action committee that successfully passed a bond election with 70 percent of the vote; and

WHEREAS Kathi Walrath was a Parent Teacher Organization leader for a dozen years and served on the Salado ISD long-range facilities committee which laid the groundwork for a successful bond election; and

WHEREAS the late Roger Grizzard served Weatherford ISD as a teacher and a volunteer for decades as he provided civics education and job skills to the town's students; and

WHEREAS Katie Walsh has been a Parent Teacher Association leader, serving in numerous capacities, in Frisco ISD, and created a Walk-A-Thon and organized book fairs; and

WHEREAS Loretta Burns is a long-time advocate for at-risk students, having created programs such as a free summer reading programs and chairing a parent engagement committee that benefitted Fort Worth ISD; and

WHEREAS Edith Natividad has been volunteering in Copperas Cove ISD for more than 20 years helping boost children's literacy skills, raising funds for a scholarship program, and starting an after-school hula dance club;

WHEREAS Roddy "Bud" Allred took the skills he learned as a farmer and taught Ag Mechanics and FFA students in Vega ISD about mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic systems, causing them to produce award-winning work; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education recognizes these outstanding individuals as Heroes for Children and thanks them for their combined 179 years of volunteer activity in their local public schools.

WITNESS our signatures this thirteenth day of September, two thousand nineteen in Austin, Texas.

Donna Bahorich, Chair

Georgina Pérez, Secretary