

*Resolution honoring McAllen Memorial Cheerleader
Addison Rene Bortnick*

Whereas

on February 6, 2007 Addison Rene Bortnick entered the world. Addison grew up in Loveland, Co, Abilene, TX and McAllen, TX with her parents Stephen Hugh and Rebecca Elizabeth Bortnick, and her two brothers, Hayden Drew & Brady Neil; and

Whereas

from a very young age Addison inspired the community to come together in support of those with special needs. She was the cover girl for Children's Ministry Magazine and was also chosen to be the cover girl for the book titled, Special Needs Ministry for Children; and

Whereas

once Addison became a full-time student she immediately began paving the way for district change and a movement toward full inclusion for herself as well as others with disabilities. Addison took great pride in her many academic achievements as well as her achievements in extracurricular activities including cheerleading, 4-H and dance; and

Whereas

Addison has made history with a lot of "firsts" in her life. She was the first young woman with Down syndrome to be selected as the Vice President in the Student Council at Cathey Middle School, the first young woman with Down syndrome to make the Memorial High School Cheerleading Team in McAllen ISD, and. she was also one of the first young women with Down syndrome to be a Debi Lou model; and

Whereas

at the age of 10 Addison found a new passion in public speaking. She was invited to be the guest speaker at numerous events and celebrated every opportunity to be a voice for all with disabilities. She was the overall top winner for Texas District 12, 4-H in public speaking, was named the 2018 Easterseals Advocate of the Year, and was also honored as a RGV Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Woman of Distinction and received the 2020 Rising Star award; and

Whereas

as a 14 year-old cheerleader, self-advocate, and public speaker, Addison's strength of character - despite the many obstacles she faced - has been her launching pad into experiencing what others viewed as a hardship. She has a courageous heart full of God's love and a strong desire to fulfill her mission of replacing doubt with knowledge, fear with love, and segregation with inclusion. "People are not their disabilities, they are people first." She has big dreams of making the world fully inclusive. She lives to show the world that all people with and without a disability are capable of living the life of their dreams.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby congratulates Addison on her wonderful accomplishment in becoming a cheerleader, her prosperous journey and wishes her all the best in life. Thank you for always believing in yourself, never giving up when others doubted you and most of all for following your dreams. Keep pushing through fulfilling your desire of traveling the world in order to help others with disabilities. You are an inspiration to us all.

Approved this 2nd day of November, 2021.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk