

House Resolution 949

By: Representative Williamson of the 115th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and congratulating Alexander Watkins for his continued inspirational triumph
2 in the face of adversity; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Alexander was born on June 11, 1994, and is now 23 years old; and

4 WHEREAS, he abruptly stopped talking around the age of 16 months, despite previously
5 speaking several words. At six months of age, his ear, nose, and throat (ENT) specialist had
6 inserted tubes into his ears and later claimed that he was completely healthy at his 18-month
7 checkup and that the tubes had fallen out as they should. However, at age three, Alexander's
8 condition became fully clear when his pediatrician discovered that the tubes were still in his
9 ears and needed to be immediately removed; and

10 WHEREAS, his mother had learned to interpret her son's expressions, even when they were
11 improperly communicated before his hearing loss was diagnosed; and

12 WHEREAS, Alexander was always a creative child, who, when he was not able to verbally
13 express his thoughts, would draw out the storyline of a movie and found ways to
14 communicate with his family through his art and body language; and

15 WHEREAS, at a young age, Alexander began to create characters and name them, and his
16 dream is to be an animator one day; and

17 WHEREAS, Alexander began school at the age of three, owing to his delayed speech
18 development. As a firstborn son, his family began a new journey with him as he began
19 speech, cognitive, and occupational therapy; and

20 WHEREAS, Alexander remained in a collaborative classroom until the sixth grade. In his
21 fifth grade year, he brought himself to a sixth grade level in science and language arts; and

22 WHEREAS, although Alexander did struggle socially in his middle school years, he began
23 to open up in high school when he took his first drama class, finding a place where he could
24 shine. He discovered his love for theater and took both fundamental and advanced classes;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Alexander graduated in 2013, with honors, and is now in college where he
27 continues to act in theater productions; and

28 WHEREAS, Alexander was inducted into the International Thespians Society and in his
29 senior year of high school, received "The Alexander Watkins Award" named in his honor,
30 and based on his stage talent and selfless spirit toward others.

31 WHEREAS, it is his mother's greatest prayer and wish that many will be inspired by
32 Alexander's story. Even though Alexander couldn't speak in his early years and began
33 learning later than others, he found a way for his voice to be heard in the world.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body commend and congratulate Alexander Watkins for his inspirational
36 example of personal grit and triumph and extend best wishes for his continued growth and
37 success.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
40 Alexander Watkins and his mother, Devonna Casson.