



## THE STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY FOUNDATION

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### IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**JULY 25, 2013-AUSTIN, TEXAS-**State Senator Jose Rodriguez authored Senate Resolution 78 during the Second Call Session of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature to recognize and congratulate the “Texas Bison Student Study Group” student and adult participants sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation of El Paso in partnership with Texas Junior High and Middle Schools for their effort to plan, develop and launch “THE OFFICIAL STATE BISON HERD OF TEXAS FUND” on September 12, 2013, The Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Day, to establish and maintain a permanent fund whose annual interest shall be presented by The STAR DAY Foundation as an annual grant on September 12<sup>th</sup> to the Caprock Canyons State Park Superintendent to support the conservation, preservation and restoration work of the Official State Bison Herd of Texas management team to help pioneer and lead the effort to “Save The Official State Bison Herd of Texas-A State of Texas Treasure!” for the young people of Texas. Senator Rodriguez is pictured above delivering his opening and welcoming remarks to the three (3) schools and nearly 300 students and adults participating in “THE SPIRIT OF STAR DAY 2013 CELEBRATION” organized and conducted by The STAR DAY Foundation to celebrate the 167<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birthday of the Great State of Texas on STAR DAY, February 19, 2013 in the State of Texas Capitol Rotunda. The event was sponsored by State Senator Kel Seliger and State Representative Tom Craddick.

## **SENATE RESOLUTION NO 78**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance Day Foundation's Texas Bison Student Study Group for its efforts to launch the Official State Bison Herd of Texas Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance Day Foundation, also known as the STAR Day Foundation, was organized on July 31, 1998, as a nonprofit organization to carry out the legislative intent of the STAR Day bill, S.B. 1656, Acts of the 76th Legislature, 1999, which was filed at the request of a Galveston County seventh grade student and originally proposed in a Texas history class paper; the foundation's mission is to plan, develop, and conduct an appropriate and patriotic State of Texas birthday celebration on February 19 of each year in partnership with Texas schools and other organizations to inspire a greater appreciation for the history of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, The STAR Day Foundation has since 2000 organized and sponsored student study groups as after-school enrichment programs to provide students with the opportunity to plan and conduct STAR Day celebration programs at their respective schools and to study topics related to conservation, preservation, and restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, Among those study groups are the Texas Silver Student Study Group, which was organized in the Presidio Independent School District at Lucy Rede Franco Middle School in 2006 to explore and discover the science, technology, engineering, and mathematical principles of mining being implemented at the Shafter Silver Mine in Presidio County; the study

group worked to effect the designation of silver as the official State Precious Metal of Texas during the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, The Texas Bison Student Study Group was organized at the same school on September 12, 2010, to study the history and origin of the Texas Plains bison, especially the official State Bison Herd of Texas at Caprock Canyons State Park; additional goals of the group were to study the history and culture of Native American people who hunted bison, to study and evaluate the feasibility of the use of Texas bison meat as a component of school lunch programs, to investigate and propose ways to raise funds to support the conservation work of the official State Bison Herd of Texas management team at Caprock Canyons State Park, and to plan, develop, and conduct expeditions to visit the state park and Texas bison ranches to see bison and experience bison ranching firsthand; and

**WHEREAS**, The Texas Bison Student Study Group worked with legislators to achieve the designation of the Goodnight Texas Plains Bison Herd at Caprock Canyons State Park as the official State Bison Herd of Texas during the 82nd Texas Legislature in 2011; during the 83rd Texas Legislature in 2013, the group also successfully advocated for the designation of September 12 as Mary Ann "Molly" Goodnight Day and March 5 as Charles Goodnight

Day to honor and recognize both individuals for leading the effort to save the herd now known as the official State Bison Herd of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, The Official State Bison Herd of Texas Fund was proposed by the Texas Bison Student Study Group in 2012 as a collaborative long-term statewide fund-raising effort to establish and maintain a permanent endowment fund whose annual interest shall be presented as a grant by the STAR Day Foundation on September 12 each year to the management team at Caprock Canyons State Park to assist in their efforts to save the official State Bison Herd of Texas as a state treasure for the people of Texas; the fund was formally announced during the annual Spirit of STAR Day celebration conducted on STAR Day, February 19, 2013, in the Texas State Capitol Rotunda; and

**WHEREAS**, Since silver is now the official State Precious Metal of Texas, the STAR Day Foundation is initiating an economic development effort to create an Official State Bison Herd of Texas Donation Coin minted from pure silver mined from the Shafter Silver Mine in Presidio County to be offered as a donation premium to donors supporting the Official State Bison Herd of Texas Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, The Official State Bison Herd of Texas Fund is being formally launched by the STAR Day Foundation and its volunteers on Mary Ann "Molly" Goodnight Day, September 12, 2013, at Caprock Canyons State Park; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, 2nd Called

Session, hereby commend the STAR Day Foundation and congratulate the Texas Bison Student Study Group and its volunteers on their efforts to launch the Official State Bison Herd of Texas Fund and extend to all sincere best wishes for success; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Texas Bison Student Study Group and the STAR Day Foundation as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.