



## THE STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY FOUNDATION

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### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# “THE OFFICIAL STATE BISON HERD OF TEXAS FUND IS LAUNCHED!”



**SEPTEMBER 12, 2013-MARY ANN (MOLLY) GOODNIGHT DAY, QUITAQUE, TEXAS**-Dennis M. Kulvicki, President of The STAR DAY Foundation of El Paso, rounds up the “First Donation Donor” to launch “THE OFFICIAL STATE BISON HERD OF TEXAS FUND.” Donald K. Beard, Superintendent of Caprock Canyons State Park, volunteered and donated the “first dollar” on Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Day during a “Caprock Area Tourism Seminar” conducted at the Quitaque Hope Center. Governor Perry, a 1999 STAR DAY Founder, El Paso State Senator Rodriguez, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Smith and others sent congratulatory messages to The STAR DAY Foundation. Pictured from left to right are: Dennis M. Kulvicki, Rebecca Miller, Freda Hughes, Brenda Price, Donald Beard, Laramy Estel, Jake Gass, James Orciz and Le’Ann Pigg.

The Caprock Area Tourism Seminar was organized and conducted by the Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway as an informal gathering and discussion about current and upcoming projects at Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway. The Texas Plains Trail Region, The STAR DAY Foundation, and the Panhandle Marketing Council were there to discuss ways to promote tourism to the local area. Executive Director of The Texas Plains Trails Region Dr. Barbara A. Brannon, The STAR DAY Foundation President Dennis M. Kulvicki and Caprock Canyons State Park Superintendent Donald K. Beard presented overviews of their programs to an audience of nearly fifty (50) attendees.

Dennis M. Kulvicki provided an overview of the Mission of The STAR DAY Foundation founded on July 31, 1998 and its expanded learning opportunities student study group activities created as after-school student enrichment programs in partnership with Texas schools serving 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. The activities of The Texas Bison Student Study Group initially organized on September 12, 2010 at Presidio ISD Lucy Rede Franco Junior High School were illustrated. The Texas Bison Student Study Group invited State Senator Kel Seliger to author a bill (SCR 10-2013) to designate September 12<sup>th</sup> as “The Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Day” to honor and remember her life and achievements as the “Woman Who Saved the Texas Plains Bison.” The Texas Bison Student Study Group invited State Representatives Pete Gallego, Warren Chisum and Jim Landtroop to author a bill (HCR 86-2011) to designate the Texas State Bison Herd at Caprock Canyons State Park as “The Official State Bison Herd of Texas.”

The Texas Bison Student Study Group invited The STAR DAY Foundation on September 12, 2012 to organize and launch “THE OFFICIAL STATE BISON HERD OF TEXAS FUND” on September 12, 2013. The Fund has been established as a permanent fund whose annual interest shall be presented as a grant from The STAR DAY Foundation to the Superintendent of Caprock Canyons State Park to support the conservation, preservation and restoration work of the Official State Bison Herd of Texas management team on September 12<sup>th</sup> each year. The Texas Bison Student Study Group shall pioneer and lead an effort to invite the families of Texas 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to save and make an annual donation to The Fund as a STAR DAY birthday gift to the State of Texas. The primary goal of The Fund shall be to roundup \$100 million dollars over the next 16 years as a collective and collaborative service achievement gift from the students of Texas.



The President of The STAR DAY Foundation Dennis M. Kulvicki presents to Caprock Canyons State Park Superintendent Donald K. Beard and Park Ranger Le'Ann Pigg a copy of The Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Bookmark published by The STAR DAY Foundation. The bookmark has also been published as an eBookmark and available for free for downloading and printing from The STAR DAY Foundation website. The bookmark illustrates the life and achievements of Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight, The Woman Who Saved the Texas Plains Bison. Park Ranger Le'Ann Pigg is an eAdvisor to The Texas Bison Student Study Group.

The STAR DAY Foundation is pioneering and leading a campaign in partnership with The Texas Bison Student Study Group to invite 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families to save and donate \$1 to The STAR DAY Foundation to receive the printed Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Bookmark as a “Donation Premium” and to pledge to read one additional book using the bookmark as a volunteer of “The Junior Pioneers and Leaders of the State (PALS) of Texas Readers Are Leaders Team” of The Texas Bison Student Study Group. The proceeds of the bookmark donations shall be used to commission an author and publish a physical book and an eBook about Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight as a collective and collaborative service achievement of merit gift by students to the State of Texas to enhance the story of Texas for the people of Texas by the students of Texas. Additional information about the Mission of The STAR DAY Foundation and the goals of The Texas Bison Student Study Group may be found at:<http://www.thestardayfoundation.org>.