

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 138

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Sisters Morgan O'Connor, Kelly Schaar, and Bridey  
2           Greeson, owners of the Dunn O'Connor River Ranch in Goliad County,  
3           have been presented with the 2021 Lone Star Land Steward Award for  
4           the Coastal Prairies Ecoregion by the Texas Parks and Wildlife  
5           Department; and

6           WHEREAS, For the past quarter century, TPWD has recognized  
7           private landowners for exemplary contributions to land, water, and  
8           wildlife stewardship; its awards program raises awareness of sound  
9           natural resource and habitat management practices and highlights  
10          the important role private landowners play in the conservation of  
11          the state's unique natural and cultural resources; and

12          WHEREAS, The 6,900-acre Dunn O'Connor River Ranch has been in  
13          the sisters' family since 1836; through their collaboration with  
14          the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal and state  
15          agencies, they have maintained a successful grazing program for  
16          their cattle that also benefits native wildlife; the sisters'  
17          mother, Marie O'Connor Sorenson, began participating in the Coastal  
18          Prairie Conservation Initiative in 2003, and the ranch has since  
19          added watering facilities to improve livestock grazing  
20          distribution as well as numerous cross fences to enable rotational  
21          grazing; the ranch additionally conducts prescribed burning on  
22          pastures to enhance secondary plant succession and to maintain  
23          grassland species while discouraging invasive brush; and

24          WHEREAS, Over the years, many research initiatives have taken

1 place at the ranch, including those involving monarch butterflies,  
2 bobwhite quail, mottled ducks, and red imported fire ants; the  
3 ranch has also worked closely with state and federal partners to  
4 become one of several release sites for the highly endangered  
5 Attwater's prairie chicken; since 2007, hundreds of the birds bred  
6 and hatched in captivity have been released on the ranch, and thanks  
7 to conservation efforts, the population of the species is the  
8 highest it has been since 1993; and

9         WHEREAS, The natural beauty and diverse ecologies of the Lone  
10 Star State depend greatly on the care and oversight demonstrated by  
11 its landowners, and these conscientious and hardworking Texans are  
12 helping to preserve precious resources for future generations; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
15 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby congratulate Morgan  
16 O'Connor, Kelly Schaar, and Bridey Greeson of the Dunn O'Connor  
17 River Ranch on their receipt of a Lone Star Land Steward Award from  
18 the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and extend to them sincere  
19 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

20         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for Ms. O'Connor, Ms. Schaar, and Ms. Greeson as an  
22 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.