

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 871

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Frank J. Deckert on the occasion of his retirement on May 31, 2003, as superintendent of the Big Bend National Park, which includes the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank Deckert has been an employee with the National Park Service since 1967, when he started his career as a park ranger and naturalist at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years, Frank has traversed the country, accepting assignments with the National Park Service in Michigan, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, Virginia, and New Mexico; he was at Big Bend National Park from 1975 to 1980 as chief of interpretation, and he was the superintendent at Carlsbad Caverns National Park just prior to returning to Big Bend; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank was born in Fresno, California, and earned a bachelor of science degree in forest management from Humboldt State College in Arcata; before joining the National Park Service on a full-time basis, he was a seasonal employee in the Sequoia National Forest in a variety of positions; and

**WHEREAS**, Throughout his career, Frank has been active in numerous community organizations; he was president of the Carlsbad Rotary Club and was a Scoutmaster in Colonial Heights, Virginia; he has served as a volunteer fireman and on numerous church committees; and

**WHEREAS**, An award-winning author, Frank wrote *Big Bend-- Three Steps to the Sky* and the chapter on the Big Bend National Park in *The Sierra Club Guides to the National Parks: Desert Southwest*; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years, he has received numerous service awards, including the Superior Service Award from the National Park Service and the Silver Beaver and God and Service awards from the Boy Scouts of America; he was named Rotarian of the Year by the Carlsbad Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International; and

**WHEREAS**, He is married to the former Gloria Quick of Waynesboro, Virginia, and the couple has three grown children and three grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, An exemplary public servant and administrator, Frank Deckert is highly respected by his colleagues, and his dedicated service to the National Park Service and the Big Bend National Park will be greatly missed; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend Frank J. Deckert for his many

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years of outstanding service to the National Park Service and extend to him best wishes for the retirement years ahead; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Frank Deckert as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 14, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate