

By: Seliger

S.C.R. No. 10

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Accomplished Texans who serve as positive role
3 models for young people deserve special recognition, and Mary Ann
4 "Molly" Goodnight, Armstrong County pioneer and wife of Charles
5 Goodnight, embodied the strength and spirit that has made Texas an
6 enduring example to the rest of the country; and

7 WHEREAS, Molly Goodnight was born September 12, 1839, in
8 Madison County, Tennessee; she moved with her family to Fort
9 Belknap, Texas, in 1854; after the death of her parents, she worked
10 as a schoolteacher and took care of her five brothers; and

11 WHEREAS, She met Charles Goodnight in the mid-1860s, and they
12 married in 1870; the couple settled in Pueblo, Colorado, where
13 Charles had already established a ranch; drought and the Panic of
14 1873 caused the family to return to Texas, where Charles received
15 backing from Irish investor John George Adair, who became his
16 partner; and

17 WHEREAS, The Goodnights founded a ranch in the Texas
18 Panhandle based in Palo Duro Canyon; Molly became doctor, nurse,
19 spiritual comforter, sister, and mother to the ranch hands who
20 worked there, but her most important role was wife and helpmate to
21 the most famous rancher on the High Plains; and

22 WHEREAS, She became interested in the plight of the baby
23 bison left behind by the commercial hunters who had ravaged the
24 great bison herds that roamed the Plains; recognizing that the

1 extinction of the bison was imminent, she encouraged her husband to
2 establish the Goodnight bison herd, which has since become the
3 Official State Bison Herd of Texas and is now located at Caprock
4 Canyons State Park; and

5 WHEREAS, Known as the Mother of the Panhandle of Texas, Molly
6 helped establish Goodnight College, and the town of Goodnight is
7 named in honor of her and her husband; Molly died in 1926, and her
8 headstone reads "Mary Ann Dyer Goodnight, One who spent her whole
9 life in the service of others"; she is truly deserving of this
10 signal honor for her pioneering work alongside her husband and her
11 visionary efforts to save the bison; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
13 hereby designate September 12 of each year from 2013 through 2022 as
14 Mary Ann "Molly" Goodnight Day in honor of her work in saving the
15 herd of Texas Plains bison that is now the Official State Bison Herd
16 of Texas; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in honor
18 of the life and legacy of Mary Ann "Molly" Goodnight.