

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 510

WHEREAS, The Muy Grande Deer Contest in Freer is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2015, and this milestone provides a fitting opportunity to celebrate this exciting and popular event; and

WHEREAS, The competition traces its history to 1965, when its founder, Leonel Garza, was serving as the manager of the Center Circle Gas Station; he started the deer-hunting contest as a way to draw hunters to his business, and that first year, there was only one category, for the widest spread of antlers on a buck; when the winner asked what he'd won, Mr. Garza, who hadn't planned that far ahead, gave the man his wristwatch; and

WHEREAS, Named for the size of South Texas deer, the Muy Grande Deer Contest is widely considered the oldest big buck contest in Texas, and Mr. Garza himself is now known by the nickname "Muy"; today, the event boasts more than 1,800 lifetime members and annually draws more than 900 registered entrants; through the decades, many celebrities have participated, including baseball great Nolan Ryan, actor Slim Pickens, and musician George Strait; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, Mr. Garza has been assisted by his daughter and son-in-law, Imelda and Kenneth Sharber; the contest now encompasses 70 categories, and the annual awards ceremony regularly pays tribute to youth hunters, sports writers, landowners, and ranch guides; a portion of the proceeds each year goes to fund scholarships for local students; and

WHEREAS, In its first 50 years, the Muy Grande Deer Contest has grown from a moment of inspiration by "Muy" Garza into one of the signature sporting events of South Texas, and this pioneering competition is a source of great pride to the residents of Freer and the surrounding area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Muy Grande Deer Contest and extend to the event's staff and participants sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Muy Grande Deer Contest as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 9, 2015.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate