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By:  Gutierrez H.R. No. 648

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The World Boxing Council has served as a positive international influence in the sport of boxing for more than half a century; and

WHEREAS, One of four major entities that sanction world championship boxing fights, the World Boxing Council was created on February 14, 1963, in Mexico City; representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, England, France, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the United States, and Venezuela were involved at the time of its establishment, and the WBC is now affiliated with more than 165 countries around the globe; over the years, the council has introduced rules and procedures that have transformed the sport, such as shortening title fights from 15 rounds to 12 and implementing a range of regulations to make the sport safer and fairer; and

WHEREAS, The WBC was led for nearly four decades by Dr. Jose Sulaimán Chagnón, who served as president from 1975 until his death in 2014; his many achievements included expanding the council's global reach and creating World Boxing Cares, a nonprofit initiative in which boxing celebrities visit children at hospitals, orphanages, and youth centers; and

WHEREAS, Since the passing of Dr. Sulaimán, the WBC has been guided by his son, Mauricio Sulaimán, who had assisted his father for many years and had served as executive secretary before assuming his present roles as president and chief executive officer; dedicated to boxing safety, Mauricio Sulaimán organized an annual convention for the review and improvement of regulations; moreover, the WBC continues to be active in community affairs by supporting a range of charitable efforts; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the WBC has excelled in its mission of promoting the sport of boxing while serving as a unifying force in the many nations in which it operates and among the diverse array of athletes with whom it is affiliated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor the contributions of the World Boxing Council and extend to all those associated with the organization sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the WBC as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.