86R16855 GM-D

By:  Springer H.R. No. 855

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Many proud residents of Bowie gathered on June 8, 2017, to celebrate the certification by Guinness World Records of the world's largest Bowie knife, located in Pelham Park; and

WHEREAS, Installed by crane on a concrete base, the giant knife weighs more than 3,000 pounds and measures over 20 feet in length; the stainless steel, 14-foot-5-inch blade remains unsharpened, in case someone should try to climb on it; the handle is made out of an enormous limb pruned from a nearby bodark tree; to ensure safety and comply with local ordinances, the monument was made to withstand normal seismic activity, 90-mile-per-hour winds, and as much as an inch of ice; and

WHEREAS, The idea for the record-setting knife originated with Bob Hadley, an accomplished sculptor; following his untimely death in 2013, his friend Van Baize took up the cause, joining forces with a fellow member of the board of the chamber of commerce, Bryan Brown; as co-chairs of the Bowie Knife Project Committee, they raised $150,000 from private sources and contracted with an engineering company, A.S.A.P. Waterjet Cutting Services, whose Bobby Pennartz, Albert Schlabs, and Larry Hartmangruber fabricated the monument; and

WHEREAS, Sharing a namesake with the iconic knife, the city of Bowie is a fitting location for a monument to the blade made famous by the Alamo hero, and this attraction is sure to prove popular with visitors and local residents for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the City of Bowie on the installation of a Bowie knife sculpture in Pelham Park and the sculpture's certification by Guinness World Records as the world's largest Bowie knife; and, be it further

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