

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Joe Braman, a Refugio rancher and businessman, has  
2 helped to protect an endangered species by working to curb the crime  
3 of rhinoceros poaching in South Africa; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Braman was sought out for his dog training  
5 skills by Ivan Carter, founder of the Ivan Carter Wildlife  
6 Conservation Alliance, an organization that is working to address  
7 the epidemic of poaching in Africa due to the illegal wildlife  
8 trade; after journeying to South Africa, Mr. Braman saw firsthand  
9 the carnage and suffering that have been inflicted on the country's  
10 rhino population, which includes the critically endangered black  
11 rhinoceros; and

12           WHEREAS, Returning to his ranch in Refugio County with a new  
13 sense of purpose, Mr. Braman partnered with retired K-9 handler and  
14 trainer Esequiel "Zeke" Ortiz to teach a group of coonhounds how to  
15 track and apprehend criminal poachers; the task went on to become  
16 his full-time passion, requiring him to work with the dogs every  
17 day, from the early morning hours to late at night; and

18           WHEREAS, After a year, 50 of Mr. Braman's coonhounds were  
19 deemed fit for the job; the dogs, which are trained to travel in  
20 packs of up to 10, are capable of detecting the scent of humans who  
21 have crossed through an area several hours ago and miles away, and  
22 they are fitted with GPS tracking devices for law enforcement to  
23 follow once the pack locates a poacher; Mr. Braman began deploying  
24 the dogs to South Africa in 2018, and their efforts have since led

1 to dozens of arrests; and

2 WHEREAS, Joe Braman has demonstrated remarkable skill,  
3 dedication, and perseverance in his work to save some of our  
4 planet's most magnificent and vulnerable animals from extinction,  
5 and in so doing, he has shown us how the actions of one individual  
6 have the power to make a difference; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
8 Legislature hereby honor Joe Braman for his contributions to  
9 rhinoceros conservation efforts in South Africa and extend to him  
10 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for Mr. Braman as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
13 House of Representatives.

Morrison

H.R. No. 583

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 583 was adopted by the House on March 13, 2019, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House