

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 583

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.