

By: Springer

H.R. No. 959

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Bradley 3 Ranch celebrated 60 years of operation  
2 in the registered cattle business in 2018, and this occasion  
3 provides a welcome opportunity to honor its heritage and  
4 achievements; and

5           WHEREAS, The origins of the Bradley 3 Ranch date back to the  
6 1870s, when Rufus Jack Bradley worked as a wagon boss in the  
7 northwest Panhandle; after diligently saving his wages during 1874  
8 and 1875, he headed south and purchased a few acres between the  
9 Wichita River and Beaver Creek in Wichita County; his ranch  
10 initially raised Longhorns and then commercial Herefords; and

11           WHEREAS, In the early 1950s, Billy Jack Bradley, Rufus's  
12 grandson, met his future wife, Minnie Lou Ottinger, who suggested  
13 that the Bradley ranch should try crossing Angus bulls with  
14 Hereford cows, a radical notion at the time; the Bradleys expanded  
15 their new black baldie herd to a second ranch in Dickens County, and  
16 after Bill returned from his service in the armed forces, he  
17 purchased a third ranch in Childress County; when he and Minnie Lou  
18 married, the Bradley 3 Ranch was born, with the name representing  
19 the third ranch and the fact that Bill and Minnie Lou were the third  
20 generation of the family to ranch in North Texas; and

21           WHEREAS, The business transitioned to raising purebred Angus  
22 cattle in the late 1950s, and over the years, operations have  
23 evolved to meet changing consumer demand; the Bradleys built a beef  
24 processing facility in 1986, producing their own branded beef

1 products for many years before selling the facility in 2002; today,  
2 the ranch continues to be operated by Minnie Lou Bradley along with  
3 her daughter, Mary Lou Bradley-Henderson, and Mary Lou's husband,  
4 James Henderson; each has become a respected figure in the cattle  
5 industry, and Minnie Lou has been inducted into the National  
6 Cowgirl Hall of Fame and has received other notable accolades for  
7 her pioneering achievements; and

8 WHEREAS, For six decades, the Bradley 3 Ranch has  
9 distinguished itself as a premier cattle-raising operation, and in  
10 so doing, it has furthered the rich ranching tradition of the Lone  
11 Star State; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize the Bradley 3 Ranch on 60 years in the  
14 registered cattle business and extend to all those associated with  
15 the enterprise sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for the Bradley family as an expression of high regard by  
19 the Texas House of Representatives.