

By: Whitmire

S.R. No. 54

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Texas Senate is pleased to recognize one of its most visible and valued employees, Rick DeLeon, on his retirement as the Senate's sergeant-at-arms, bringing to a close a distinguished career in state service that has spanned more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, In his 15 years with the Senate, Rick DeLeon has become renowned for his strong work ethic, his serious demeanor that belies an endlessly giving nature, and his unwavering dedication to the institution; Senate staffers have come to rely on Rick for his advice and his ability to solve problems, and the Texas Senate is indeed fortunate to have been the beneficiary of his servant's heart; and

WHEREAS, A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Rick began his career in state service as a highway patrolman with the Texas Department of Public Safety; he became certified as a scuba diver and joined the department's dive recovery team, and he rose through the ranks during his 17 years with the agency to become a part of Governor Rick Perry's security detail and a trusted member of the security team for the governor's own dives, a duty he took particular delight in; and

WHEREAS, Rick joined the Texas Senate in 2006 as the assistant sergeant-at-arms and was sworn in as the Senate's sergeant-at-arms the following year; in this post, he has

maintained order and decorum in the Senate Chamber and overseen his office's numerous employees, which include assistant sergeants, car guards, porters, and messengers; a believer in preparedness, Rick is known for his ability to effectively train messengers and assistant sergeants on committee and floor processes and in security awareness, including being watchful for suspicious activity and evacuating committee rooms; the skills he has taught his employees have allowed many of them to go on to thrive in positions elsewhere in the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Rick served as president of the National Legislative Services and Security Association, which has honored him with multiple accolades, including the association's highest honor, the Tony Beard Memorial Award, in recognition of his outstanding service and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, An avid outdoorsman, Rick has provided game from his hunting trips to create his popular chili to help fund the Senate's annual holiday party, showing that even in his leisure activities he worked tirelessly for and was absolutely dedicated to the employees of the Texas Senate; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Rick has benefited from the loving support of his wife, Sissy, and their children, Ricky and Selena; his retirement will provide him the opportunity to further dote on his four, and soon to be five, grandchildren; while to the Senate he is known for his emotional discipline and professional conduct, to his grandchildren he is known simply as Gru, from *Minions* movie fame, and he answers them when they call out for their beloved Gru; and

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WHEREAS, An esteemed public servant, Rick DeLeon has long held the respect and admiration of all who work in the Capitol, and his presence as the Senate's sergeant-at-arms will be greatly missed by senators, staff members, and colleagues alike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commend Rick DeLeon on his exceptional service as the Senate's sergeant-at-arms and extend to him best wishes for happiness in the retirement years ahead; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of highest regard from the Texas Senate.