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By:  Morales of Maverick H.R. No. 81

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Gage Hotel in Marathon was named to the National Register of Historic Places on December 4, 2020, and its inclusion is a fitting tribute to the hotel's status as a treasured West Texas landmark; and

WHEREAS, A program of the National Park Service, the National Register of Historic Places is the country's official listing of historic buildings and sites worthy of preservation for their historic or architectural distinction; and

WHEREAS, The Gage Hotel was opened in Marathon in 1927 by cattleman Alfred S. Gage; a native of Vermont, he came west in 1878 at the age of 18 with only a $20 gold piece in his pocket, and he went on to establish the largest cattle operation in the Trans-Pecos region; he founded the hotel as his residence and base of operations, while also providing accommodation to travelers; and

WHEREAS, Designed by architect Henry C. Trost, the original two-story building is a fine example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, featuring a flat roof, an arcaded porch, and a semicircular arch as its main entrance; during the 1960s and 70s, the hotel changed hands a number of times until it was acquired in 1978 by J. P. Bryan, a descendant of Stephen F. Austin; under his direction, the hotel was revived and renovated, with particular attention to preserving its historic character, and it reopened in 1982; the Los Portales addition to the hotel was created in 1992 by architect Randall Walton and craftsman Norman J. Dehmlow in the Pueblo-Spanish Revival style, with a central courtyard and a fountain; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the Gage Hotel has hosted such famous guests as Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor of Mount Rushmore, and the celebrated Western novelist Zane Grey, who is reputed to have written one of his most famous novels at the Gage; in recent years, the hotel has become popular with visitors to such nearby attractions as Big Bend National Park and Marfa; and

WHEREAS, For nearly a century, the Gage Hotel has served as a prime attraction of the Big Bend Region, drawing visitors from across the state and nation, and its charm and storied history make it truly deserving of this prestigious national honor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Gage Hotel on its addition to the National Register of Historic Places and extend to Mr. Bryan and his staff sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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