## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Gil Jones, general manager of the Valley Gin Company in Tornillo, has enjoyed a long and successful career in the cotton industry, and over the past year, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to safety that has helped his company weather the many challenges it has faced during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Cotton is the second-largest export in the El Paso area, and El Paso County is the largest producer of pima cotton in the State of Texas; when the novel coronavirus arrived in the area, Mr. Jones acted quickly to overhaul the operations at the Valley Gin Company and adopt new protocols, including the use of face masks, barriers, and hand sanitizers, to keep employees, vendors, and truckers safe; and

WHEREAS, Although the pandemic threatened to heavily disrupt the local industry, the measures adopted by Mr. Jones and the Valley Gin Company helped sustain a high level of cotton production; along the way, Mr. Jones also advocated for the passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which grants greater market access to farmers and ranchers; and

WHEREAS, Gil Jones has distinguished himself through his leadership at a time of great adversity for many in the field of agriculture, and his efforts have earned him the respect and appreciation of his employees and his peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby honor Gil Jones for his outstanding career in

1 the cotton industry and his commendable approach to safety during 2 the COVID-19 pandemic and extend to him and his employees at the 3 Valley Gin Company sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it 4 further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Jones as an expression of high regard by the Texas 7 House of Representatives.

