SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 498

WHEREAS, Proud members of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the organization at their annual banquet on June 3, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The chamber was chartered with the State of Texas in 1931 by its founding members, J. Malcolm Crim, Roy H. Laird, and Ben Laird; since 1983, its work has benefited from the funding it receives from the city hotel occupancy tax, and in 2009, the organization officially became the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau; in 2014, it launched the Visit Kilgore initiative, with its first tourism employee; and

WHEREAS, Today, the chamber boasts more than 350 member businesses that work together to serve as the voice of business and entrepreneurship in the Kilgore area; the chamber is guided by president and CEO Jill McCartney and membership manager Lisa Morgan; it also benefits from the leadership of the executive board, which includes chair Mark Robinson, past chair Dr. Chris Gratton, chair-elect Bobbie Hurley O'Dell, vice chairs Robert Young and Erin Brogoitti, and treasurer Blayne Cole, as well as the board of directors, comprised of Tim Capps, Jack Moore, Ubaldo Meraz, Kevin Offerding, and Jim Kale, and ex officio members Richard Nash, Dr. Brenda Kays, Jana Russell, Josh Selleck, and David Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, For nearly a century, the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau has played an integral role in the growth and vitality of the community, and it is indeed deserving of recognition as it marks this special milestone in its history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau and extend to its members sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the chamber as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Hughes

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2021.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate