

WHEREAS, Thomas F. Gaines, of Chula Vista, California, a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association of America, passed away on August 24, 2021, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, Tom was born on September 12, 1935, in Fort Worth, Texas; he began his over 30-year career in law enforcement in 1958 becoming a Patrol Officer in the Ponca City Police Department in Oklahoma; he became a Field Agent in the U.S. Border Patrol in 1960 and spent time stationed in El Paso, Texas; El Centro, California; and San Clemente, California; he was promoted to Field Supervisor in 1976 and, two years later, was promoted to Assistant Chief, U.S. Border Patrol in Brunswick, Georgia, and later San Diego, California; in the last six years of his service, he served as the Assistant District Director for Criminal Investigations and Anti-Smuggling in the Central District of California from 1985 to 1990; after retiring from the U.S. Border Patrol, he worked as a consultant and served as the security coordinator for the office of the U.S. Attorney in San Diego; he also served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves from 1955 to 1966; and

WHEREAS, Tom was a notable marksman and won multiple shooting competitions; he earned the Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1968 and the Distinguished Police Pistol Shot in 1976; he was the National Police Pistol Champion in 1969 and 1970; his teams won the National Police Team Championships in 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, and 1976; and served as the Team Captain of the U.S. Border Patrol National Pistol Team from 1978 to 1986; and

WHEREAS, Tom was an unrelenting advocate for the Second Amendment and law enforcement both nationally and in his home state of California; he was a life member of the NRA at the time of his death joining in 1968; he served the Board of Directors from 2000 to 2014, and served as Chairman of the Law Enforcement Assistance Committee; he participated as a life member of the California Rifle and Pistol Association and served on the Board of Directors; he participated as a life member of the California Police Pistol Association and served as Secretary from 1984 to 1989 and in the Board of Directors from 1978 to 1989; he also was a member of the International Footprint Association, the Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the South Bay Rod & Gun Club, a member of the Board of Directors for the Fraternal Order of Retired Border Patrol Officers, and a member of the American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association of America, at its meeting on October 2, 2021, in Charlotte, North Carolina,, in recognition of Thomas F. Gaines’s long years of service in the U.S. Border Patrol, service to the shooting sports, and service to the National Rifle Association of America, hereby expresses its profound sense of loss occasioned by his passing and extends its sincere sympathy to his family; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the text of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the meeting, and that a copy, suitably engrossed, be forwarded to his beloved wife Joanna, daughter Stephanie, son Del, and his grandchildren.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_ On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

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John Frazer