

By: King of Uvalde

H.R. No. 420

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Juan J. Meza retired as the Zapata County fire chief
2 in December 2020, drawing to a close a distinguished tenure with the
3 department; and

4 WHEREAS, While still a student at Zapata High School, this
5 esteemed public servant began his career as a member of the Zapata
6 County Volunteer Fire Department in 1973; following his graduation,
7 he became the county's assistant civil defense coordinator, and he
8 went on to serve the county as its fire marshal and as its emergency
9 management coordinator; assuming the role of fire chief in 2002, he
10 helped to establish the Zapata County Fire Department, which gained
11 a mobile intensive care unit, paramedics, and rescue dive and
12 hazmat teams during his tenure; and

13 WHEREAS, A graduate of the National Fire Academy, Chief Meza
14 holds certification as an advanced firefighter, an advanced arson
15 investigator, and a master peace officer as well as an emergency
16 medical technician and a code enforcement officer; he has received
17 a number of prestigious accolades over the years, including the
18 Roscoe Gibson Award from the Texas Fire Marshal's Association, a
19 congressional certificate of recognition, and a certificate of
20 commendation from the U.S. Senate, and he was recognized by the
21 Texas Division of Emergency Management in 2019 with induction into
22 its Hall of Fame; and

23 WHEREAS, Chief Meza has given generously of his time and
24 energy to such worthy organizations as the Emergency Management

1 Association of Texas, the Texas Fire Marshal's Association, and the
2 South Texas Fire Investigators Association-RGV; and

3 WHEREAS, Juan Meza's dedication, courage, and
4 professionalism have greatly benefited the residents of Zapata
5 County, and he may reflect with pride on all that he accomplished in
6 his role as fire chief; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
8 Legislature hereby congratulate Juan J. Meza on his retirement as
9 chief of the Zapata County Fire Department and extend to him sincere
10 best wishes for continued success in all his endeavors; and, be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Chief Meza as an expression of high regard by the Texas
14 House of Representatives.