

By: Burrows

H.R. No. 95

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life defined by tremendous courage and resolve  
2 drew to a close with the passing of former Lubbock firefighter  
3 Matthew Dawson on November 26, 2023, at the age of 34; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Lubbock on February 5, 1989, to Michael and  
5 Cinthia Dawson, Matt Dawson grew up with the companionship of a  
6 sister, Connie; he discovered his passion for helping others at an  
7 early age, becoming involved in missionary work through his church;  
8 he graduated from Lubbock-Cooper High School in 2007, and after  
9 initially working for his father in the family business, he set his  
10 sights on a career as a first responder; in 2009, he joined the  
11 Woodrow Volunteer Fire Department, and he went on to earn his EMT  
12 certification at South Plains College before attending the  
13 Wolfforth Fire Academy in the fall of 2010; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Dawson subsequently became a member of Lubbock  
15 Fire Rescue, and he found immense fulfillment in serving his  
16 hometown as a member of the department; while devoting himself to  
17 his duties as a firefighter, he advanced his professional  
18 development by earning his paramedic certification and his fire and  
19 medical teaching certification; he also served as an instructor at  
20 the Wolfforth Fire Academy, where he enjoyed providing guidance and  
21 support to future fire safety professionals; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Dawson demonstrated inspiring grace and  
23 fortitude after he was critically injured in a roadside accident in  
24 2020 that claimed the lives of two fellow first responders; the

1 unwavering determination he demonstrated during his recovery  
2 enabled him to progress far beyond his doctors' and therapists'  
3 expectations; and

4 WHEREAS, Along the way, Mr. Dawson became an advocate for the  
5 5-5-5 Safety Initiative, which was founded by the parents of one of  
6 the victims of the accident; during the 88th Texas Legislature, he  
7 worked with lawmakers to secure the passage of House Bill 2468, the  
8 Matt Dawson Act, which allows first responders who are injured in  
9 the line of duty to receive workers' compensation benefits for  
10 life; he retired from Lubbock Fire Rescue in April 2022, and he was  
11 honored as an Unsung Hero of Lubbock the following June; and

12 WHEREAS, Above all, Mr. Dawson was a caring husband and  
13 father; he and his wife, Chanda, shared a rewarding marriage that  
14 spanned 12 years, and in 2014 they became the parents of a beloved  
15 daughter, Preslee; and

16 WHEREAS, Although the passing of Matt Dawson is an  
17 incalculable loss to all those who held him dear, he leaves behind a  
18 record of service to his community and his profession that will be  
19 remembered and admired for years to come; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
21 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
22 Matthew Dawson and extend deepest condolences to all those who  
23 mourn his passing; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Matt  
27 Dawson.