

By: Allen

H.R. No. 361

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Jacob Cleveland "J. C." Swadley was a man of rare
2 dedication and integrity, and his passing on February 20, 2002,
3 brought sadness to the many people who respected and adored him; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in his lifelong residence of Grand Prairie on
5 September 21, 1913, Mr. Swadley began his career as a volunteer
6 firefighter in 1931; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Swadley set two milestones in Grand Prairie's
8 fire-fighting history by becoming the city's first paid firefighter
9 and first paid fire chief; though he left the department in 1961, he
10 continued to offer his expertise, insight, and energy to the city
11 and to firefighters across the state; and

12 WHEREAS, Lovingly called the "Real Fire Chief," this
13 estimable gentleman was a father figure and mentor to many; in a
14 show of admiration, Grand Prairie renamed Fire Station No. 1 in his
15 honor; and

16 WHEREAS, One of his joys later in life was helping to maintain
17 the equipment of the department, and in his last days Mr. Swadley
18 took great pleasure in helping to restore a 1939 fire truck that was
19 built by his own father; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Swadley became fire protection chief at Six
21 Flags Over Texas after leaving the Grand Prairie Fire Department,
22 and he was a highly respected leader in a number of state and local
23 firefighters' associations; and

24 WHEREAS, With a deeply ingrained passion for his work, J. C.

1 Swadley dedicated much of his life to serving others; he is truly
2 missed, but his vitality and love for his profession live on in the
3 hearts of those who knew this remarkable man; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
5 Legislature hereby honor the life of Jacob Cleveland "J. C."
6 Swadley and extend sincere sympathy to his sister, Rowena Clark; to
7 his sister-in-law, Billie Ann Mazurette; and to the innumerable
8 firefighters whose lives he touched over the years; and, be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
12 Representatives adjourns on this day, it do so in memory of J. C.
13 Swadley.