

By: Eiland

H.R. No. 763

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Galveston Police Department (GPD) recently
2 deployed its marine unit and dive team to assist in the search for
3 and recovery of debris from the tragic explosion of the space
4 shuttle *Columbia*; and

5 WHEREAS, Working in conjunction with the Federal Emergency
6 Management Agency, NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the
7 U.S. Navy, and a host of federal, state, and local organizations,
8 members of the GPD Marine Unit and Dive Team have been using sonar
9 scanning equipment to locate debris in Sabine County's Toledo Bend
10 Reservoir; their careful planning and execution of this
11 logistically demanding task have been crucial elements in the
12 overall success of the mission; and

13 WHEREAS, The search and recovery efforts have included the
14 following dedicated professionals: Sergeant Richard Kershaw,
15 Sergeant David N. White, Jr., Sergeant Tim Galvan, Sergeant Michael
16 Riedel, Corporal Richard D. McCullor II, Corporal Ronny Phillips,
17 Corporal John W. Courtney, Jr., Corporal Pete Contenta, Corporal
18 Gordon D. Pean III, Corporal Jeremi Smart, Officer Dion Watson,
19 Officer Marcus Pitre, and Officer Larry Chambers; and

20 WHEREAS, Special recognition is also deserved for the many
21 residents of Sabine County who have generously provided food and
22 encouragement for the search and recovery specialists throughout
23 the duration of their stay in the area; and

24 WHEREAS, By using their skill and expertise to locate

1 fragments from the space shuttle, the dedicated members of the GPD
2 Marine Unit and Dive Team are making a vital contribution to the
3 successful completion of this mammoth undertaking, and their
4 efforts will undoubtedly aid in this nation's ability to discover
5 the cause of this unfortunate disaster and perhaps help to prevent
6 future tragedies; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commend Police Chief Robert Pierce and the
9 members of the Galveston Police Department Marine Unit and Dive
10 Team for their vital role in the search for and recovery of debris
11 from the space shuttle *Columbia* explosion and extend to them
12 sincere appreciation for a job well done; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for the Galveston Police Department as an expression of
15 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.