

By: Eiland

H.R. No. 764

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The tragic reentry explosion of the space shuttle
2 *Columbia* on February 1, 2003, resulted in the scattering of debris
3 in several of our state's lakes and reservoirs, including Lake
4 Nacogdoches and the Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend reservoirs, and
5 members of the Galveston County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit have
6 ably joined in the effort to find and recover wreckage from the
7 disaster; and

8 WHEREAS, Using sonar screening equipment, these search and
9 recovery specialists trolled Toledo Bend Reservoir to locate
10 underwater debris; this already arduous task was made even more
11 difficult by inclement weather, yet the marine unit persevered and
12 has pursued its mission with the utmost professionalism; and

13 WHEREAS, Members of the marine unit who have provided
14 assistance in this vital endeavor include Lieutenant Chuck Walsh,
15 Sergeant Greg White, Sergeant Randy Burrows, Deputy Glenn Maddux,
16 Deputy Don Gay, Jr., and Deputy Brent Walker; these fine peace
17 officers have been supported in their endeavors by those residents
18 of south Sabine County who have provided food and encouragement to
19 search and recovery personnel throughout the challenging ordeal;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, This monumental project has truly been a team effort
22 that has required the resources of the Federal Emergency Management
23 Agency, NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S.
24 Navy, as well as Texas organizations such as the Galveston County

1 Sheriff's Office Marine Unit; in times of national tragedy, we can
2 all be proud of the fact that the citizens of Texas are eager and
3 willing to do whatever is necessary to resolve a crisis; and

4 WHEREAS, Under the direction of Sheriff Gean Leonard, the
5 Galveston County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit has earned the
6 admiration of a grateful citizenry for the pivotal work it has done
7 in bringing this sad tragedy to its conclusion; now, therefore, be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
10 Legislature hereby commend the Galveston County Sheriff's Office
11 Marine Unit for its role in the search for and recovery of debris
12 from the space shuttle *Columbia* disaster and extend sincere best
13 wishes to those individuals who have participated in this important
14 undertaking; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for the Galveston County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit as
17 an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.