

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 1703

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Mathis family of Gregg County can take  
2 justifiable pride in the three outstanding law enforcement officers  
3 it has contributed to its community; and

4           WHEREAS, Officer James Mathis of the Longview Police  
5 Department, his twin brother, Sergeant John Mathis of the Gregg  
6 County Sheriff's Office, and Jennifer Mathis, a reserve deputy in  
7 the sheriff's office and daughter of James, have made peacekeeping  
8 in this East Texas county a family affair; and

9           WHEREAS, Born and raised in Longview, John and James Mathis  
10 were inspired in their choice of vocation by the example of their  
11 grandfather, a policeman in Cleveland, Ohio; the brothers served as  
12 reserve officers in their respective agencies for a number of years  
13 before assuming full-time status; and

14           WHEREAS, Sergeant John Mathis has worked with the sheriff's  
15 office for 25 years and spent 16 of those years serving warrants; a  
16 full-time member of the police department since 1994, Officer James  
17 Mathis currently serves as the school resource officer at Forest  
18 Park Middle School, having transferred there recently from patrol  
19 duty; and

20           WHEREAS, Jennifer Mathis, who has ridden in patrol cars with  
21 both her father and uncle as an Explorer and reserve officer, will  
22 be graduating from The University of Texas at Tyler in December 2003  
23 with a degree in criminal justice and will likely join the police  
24 force in nearby Kilgore; this promising young officer was named

1 Most Outstanding Criminal Justice Student at Kilgore College and  
2 has been awarded a scholarship from the Peace Officers Memorial  
3 Foundation; and

4 WHEREAS, Each of these dedicated law officers was singled out  
5 for recognition from their departments in 2002: John Mathis was  
6 nominated as Supervisor of the Year, James Mathis, as Longview  
7 Police Officer of the Year, and Jennifer Mathis, as Reserve Deputy  
8 of the Year; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition to their professional service to the  
10 community, both John and James Mathis have been active in local  
11 politics; as a member of the Longview Police Officers Association  
12 Board of Directors for the past seven years, James Mathis has played  
13 a key role in raising the profile of that organization; on other  
14 fronts, the brothers helped elect the first African American woman  
15 to serve on the Longview City Council and have even discussed making  
16 a run for public office themselves; and

17 WHEREAS, With a combined 54 years of experience as Texas  
18 peacekeepers, John, James, and Jennifer Mathis embody the highest  
19 ideals of the law enforcement profession, and their selfless  
20 devotion to the welfare of their community is indeed deserving of  
21 their fellow citizens' deepest gratitude; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby honor Sergeant John Mathis, Officer James  
24 Mathis, and Reserve Deputy Jennifer Mathis for their exemplary  
25 service to the people of Gregg County and extend to them sincere  
26 best wishes for continued success in all their endeavors; and, be it  
27 further

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1           RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared  
2 for Sergeant Mathis, Officer Mathis, and Deputy Mathis as an  
3 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.