

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 477

In Memory
of
Charles Krenek
J. "Buzz" Mier

WHEREAS, In the aftermath of the space shuttle *Columbia* disaster, citizens throughout the southwest have made vital contributions to sharing the burden of this unfortunate and tragic event; and

WHEREAS, Helicopter searches have played a significant role in the recovery process, and to date crews have flown over 1.7 million acres in an effort to locate shuttle debris; and

WHEREAS, On March 27, 2003, a helicopter performing just such a heroic operation crashed in San Augustine County, injuring three people and killing the craft's pilot, J. "Buzz" Mier of Arizona and Charles Krenek of Lufkin, who was an employee of the Texas Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, When their helicopter went down, Mr. Krenek and Mr. Mier were taking part in a critical search operation, one that holds the hope of making future space shuttle missions safer for our astronauts; although the loss of additional lives compounds the *Columbia* tragedy, their sacrifice will long be remembered by all who were privileged to know these fine men; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the lives of Charles Krenek and J. "Buzz" Mier and extend sincere sympathy to the families and friends of these fallen heroes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for their families and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Charles Krenek and J. "Buzz" Mier.

Staples

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 31, 2003, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate