

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 875

WHEREAS, On February 1, 2003, the crew of the space shuttle *Columbia* perished while reentering Earth's atmosphere, and the repercussions of this disaster required a rapid, well-coordinated response to keep the horror of this event from being compounded; and

WHEREAS, The tragic loss of the space shuttle and its crew resulted in a massive search and recovery effort affecting 40 counties and involving hundreds of individuals from numerous federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, as well as the volunteer efforts of countless Texans; and

WHEREAS, Employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration played crucial roles in this mammoth undertaking, while additional assistance was generously provided by Amateur Radio Emergency Services, the Division of Emergency Management, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Forest Service, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Office of the Attorney General, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, Also contributing to the effort were representatives of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Animal Health Commission, the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Natural Resource Information Service, the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas Engineering Extension Service, the Railroad Commission

of Texas, the Texas Department of Human Services, and the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; other organizations integral to the search and recovery effort include the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Texas Baptist Men, The University of Texas, Stephen F. Austin State University, the Air Land Emergency Response Team, the Civil Air Patrol, the Sabine River Authority, the Texas Education Agency, and county judges and sheriffs from throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, All those involved with these noteworthy agencies and organizations are united in the effort to help find the answers to why this tragedy occurred, and the members of this chamber wish to commend them for their outstanding service in this regard; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the many individuals who participated in the recovery effort of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

Staples

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 14, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate