

By: Goodman

H.R. No. 224

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Too often in life our everyday heroes are overlooked
2 or overshadowed in the news by the famous or infamous, although
3 there is little doubt that these individuals exist, and in their
4 brave response to Hurricane Katrina, 111 Texas game wardens proved
5 to be just such heroes; and

6 WHEREAS, For the first time in its history, the Law
7 Enforcement Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was
8 asked to assist another state, and on August 30, 2005, within 12
9 hours of the request, the first of two teams of wardens was deployed
10 to Louisiana for search and rescue operations; and

11 WHEREAS, From the outset, these dedicated professionals
12 faced myriad challenges in simply trying to secure basic
13 necessities; they moved twice before they found housing that could
14 accommodate them for an indefinite length of time, and they had to
15 confront the issues of finding ample fuel and appropriate
16 replacement parts for their fleet of vehicles and boats; as these
17 supplies were only available well outside of New Orleans, the
18 wardens met another challenge in attempting to organize their
19 efforts 50 miles from the city; and

20 WHEREAS, Further unimaginable obstacles awaited them when
21 they arrived in the heart of the devastation; amid massive
22 flooding, a heavily damaged infrastructure, looting, periods of
23 gunfire, and grim reminders of the event's human toll, teams of
24 wardens set out to search for those who were trapped or immobile;

1 for 10 days, often working around the clock, they visited numerous
2 homes, apartment complexes, hospitals, and other businesses,
3 rescuing nearly 5,000 hurricane victims along the way; and

4 WHEREAS, Wardens from across the state, with every level of
5 experience, undertook this extraordinary effort with the utmost
6 professionalism and commitment; there was no way to prepare them
7 for the magnitude of destruction and desperation they would
8 encounter, yet through it all, they remained steadfast in their
9 determination to assist their fellow Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, Contributing to the search and rescue operations in
11 New Orleans were the following Texas Game Wardens: Colonel Pete
12 Flores, Lieutenant Colonel Craig Hunter, Majors Al Vielma, Bill
13 Robinson, Butch Shoop, David Sinclair, Grahame Jones, Larry Young,
14 Robert Carlson, and Steve Whiteaker, Captains Albert Lynch, Danny
15 Shaw, Eddie Tanuz, Fred Churchill, Garry Collins, Gary Dugan, Gary
16 Palmer, Gus Sorola, Henry Balderamas, James Connally, Larry Hand,
17 Rex Mayes, Rick Gully, Rick Medford, Robert Goodrich, Scott
18 Krueger, and W. J. Rawls, Lieutenant Scott Jurk, Sergeant Game
19 Wardens Adam Chrane and Johnny Longoria, and Game Wardens Alan
20 Biggerstaff, Albert Flores, Andrew Ozuna, Arthur Lawrence, Bill
21 Jones, Billy Lucio, Bobby Strickland, Brad Meloni, Brannon
22 Meinkowsky, Brent Isom, Brent Whitus, Buddy Mills, Calvin Harbaugh,
23 Chad Jones, Chip Daigle, Chris Davis, Chris Stautzenberger, Chuck
24 Cotton, Chuck Ford, Dale Moses, Dale Waters, Danny Tuggle, David
25 Chavez, David Heard, Dennis Gazaway, Derek Iden, Don Jackson, Ellis
26 Powell, Fred Ruiz, Gary Barnes, Gary Cain, Gary Hobbs, Gary Miller,
27 Heath Bragg, Hector Gonzalez, Ira Zuniga, J. C. Flores, Jason

1 McFall, Jay Oyler, Jerry Ash, Jesse Garcia, Jim Bob Van Dyke, Jim
2 Lindeman, Jimmy Woolley, John Thorne, Jon Brauchle, Josh Koenig,
3 Justin Eddins, Karen Simmons, Ken Jackson, Kerry Peterson, Kevin
4 Stancik, Kirk Jenkins, Kirk Permenter, Lane Pinckney, Leroy
5 Polnick, Luett McMahan, Mark Blount, Mark Chapa, Marty Martin,
6 Marvin Wills, Michael Jaramillo, Michael McCall, Mike Hoffmann,
7 Mike Morse, Mike Wheat, Neal McCarn, Phillip Wood, Quint Balkcom,
8 Ramiro Coronado, Randall Brown, Raul Gonzales, Rick Lane, Rip
9 Fluitt, Shane Lewis, Shawn Moore, Stephen Barbour, Tom Carbone, Tom
10 Gallenbach, Tony Norton, and Zak Benge; and

11 WHEREAS, Heroism takes many forms, from selflessly
12 responding during a crisis to volunteering for military service,
13 and these hard-working Texas game wardens have demonstrated through
14 their actions that they too are members of this special group of
15 people on whom others can rely; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
17 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend these 111 Texas
18 game wardens for their mighty search and rescue efforts following
19 Hurricane Katrina and extend to them deep appreciation for their
20 exemplary actions; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for these individuals as an expression of high regard by
23 the Texas House of Representatives.