

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Organizations and individuals that come to the aid  
2 of others in a time of need exemplify the noblest qualities of the  
3 human spirit; and

4           WHEREAS, The Quality Inn of Denton housed more than 800  
5 people in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, letting  
6 evacuees' immediate needs take precedence over usual business  
7 concerns; and

8           WHEREAS, Stepping into the breach as soon as the crisis in New  
9 Orleans became evident, the senior staff at Choice Hotels (the  
10 parent company of the Quality Inn franchise) and Shivom Hotels  
11 (owner of the Denton property) opened the Denton Quality Inn to  
12 those fleeing Hurricane Katrina; though parts of the property had  
13 previously been closed for renovation, the staff worked feverishly  
14 to make all rooms available for the evacuees and underwrote all  
15 necessary expenses to meet that goal; and

16           WHEREAS, Senior staff associated with the Quality Inn did an  
17 exceptional job of meeting the demands of this high-pressure  
18 situation; key organizers at the outset were Cara Leising of the  
19 consulting firm, NHM, Inc., and hotel general manager, Viral  
20 Thakkar; their efforts were matched by the rest of the staff in  
21 Denton, all of whom invested significant time and effort to create a  
22 safe, family-friendly haven for the storm victims; and

23           WHEREAS, The assistance offered at the Quality Inn quickly  
24 became a community effort; the area's religious institutions,

1 coordinated through Interfaith Ministries of Denton, were  
2 instrumental in keeping the hotel relief effort operating smoothly;  
3 no fewer than 37 churches contributed to the cause, with several  
4 places of worship deserving special recognition: Singing Oaks  
5 Church of Christ, which coordinated the overall operation and  
6 distributed food and clothing to meet the immediate needs of the  
7 evacuees, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and Saint Mark  
8 Catholic Church, which combined forces to direct the computer  
9 center that was set up in the hotel to assist the storm victims, and  
10 First Christian Church, which established and staffed the  
11 "mini-mall" that provided clothing, medicine, household goods, and  
12 other items, all at no charge; and

13 WHEREAS, The outpouring of compassion and assistance from the  
14 residents of the Denton area was truly stunning; among those who  
15 gave of their time and resources were Cumberland Children's Home,  
16 the City of Denton, the Denton Benefit League, the Denton  
17 Convention and Visitor Bureau, county judge Mary Horn of Denton  
18 County, Denton High School cosmetology students, the Denton Vintage  
19 Jazz Society, the Denton Kiwanis Club, Eagle Transmission, Geeks on  
20 Wheels, the Greater Denton Arts Council, Home Depot, Maids of  
21 America, McBride Music and Pawn Shop, Morrison Mills, Robson Ranch  
22 retirement community, Sally Beauty Supply, the Texas Woman's  
23 University Dental Hygiene Program, United Way of Denton County, the  
24 University of North Texas, Denton Housing Authority, McDonald's,  
25 Burger King, Denton ISD, Denton Sheriff's Department, Denton Police  
26 Department, Denton SPCA, Denton Chiropractic Association, WIC,  
27 Veterans Administration, Candy Haven, Texas Workforce Commission,

1 Angel Flight, Wells Fargo, Denton County Health Department,  
2 Brunswick Bowling Alley, and more; and

3 WHEREAS, This caring coalition worked together to provide the  
4 storm victims with as many of the comforts of home as possible,  
5 while also seeing that essential services such as medical care and  
6 education were made available; a study hall staffed by tutors was  
7 established in the hotel, and volunteers assisted children in  
8 adjusting to their new schools; moreover, all of these services  
9 were continued for more than three months after Katrina struck,  
10 during which time evacuees from Hurricane Rita arrived at the hotel  
11 and received the same warm welcome; and

12 WHEREAS, In the midst of so much sadness and destruction, the  
13 Quality Inn became an inspiring refuge that in many ways, large and  
14 small, helped the victims of the natural disasters to begin the  
15 process of recovery; though it was never designated an official  
16 hurricane shelter, the hotel became the proverbial "shelter from  
17 the storm" for hundreds of Americans in dire circumstances, and the  
18 help rendered to them by the hotel employees and the fine citizens  
19 of Denton is an inspiration to us all; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
21 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor the management and  
22 staff of the Quality Inn of Denton and all of the other individuals  
23 and organizations in that community who assisted victims of  
24 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and extend to them sincere praise for a  
25 job well done; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for hotel personnel as an expression of high regard by the

H.R. No. 338

1 Texas House of Representatives.

Crownover

H.R. No. 338

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 338 was adopted by the House on May 10, 2006, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House