

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 100**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Further unimaginable obstacles awaited them when they arrived in the heart of the devastation; amid massive flooding, a heavily damaged infrastructure, looting, periods of gunfire, and grim reminders of the event's human toll, teams of wardens set out to search for those who were trapped or immobile; for 10 days, often working around the clock, they visited numerous homes, apartment complexes, hospitals, and other businesses, rescuing nearly 5,000 hurricane victims along the way; and

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

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

Gary Cain, Gary Hobbs, Gary Miller, Heath Bragg, Hector Gonzalez, Ira Zuniga, J. C. Flores, Jason McFall, Jay Oyler, Jerry Ash, Jesse Garcia, Jim Bob Van Dyke, Jim Lindeman, Jimmy Woolley, John Thorne, Jon Brauchle, Josh Koenig, Justin Eddins, Karen Simmons, Ken Jackson, Kerry Peterson, Kevin Stancik, Kirk Jenkins, Kirk Permenter, Lane Pinckney, Leroy Polnick, Luett McMahan, Mark Blount, Mark Chapa, Marty Martin, Marvin Wills, Michael Jaramillo, Michael McCall, Mike Hoffmann, Mike Morse, Mike Wheat, Neal McCarn, Phillip Wood, Quint Balkcom, Ramiro Coronado, Randall Brown, Raul Gonzales, Rick Lane, Rip Fluitt, Shane Lewis, Shawn Moore, Stephen Barbour, Tom Carbone, Tom Gallenbach, Tony Norton, and Zak Benge; and

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

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

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for these individuals as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 1, 2006.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate