

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The year 2007 marks the 100th anniversary of the  
2 founding of the Mineola Fire Department, and this milestone  
3 provides a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to this esteemed  
4 organization; and

5           WHEREAS, On May 1, 1907, pharmacist Sidney L. Bradford  
6 officially organized the Mineola Fire Company, and its members  
7 began the task of conducting fund-raising activities to purchase  
8 equipment; the need for such an organization had been evident for  
9 some time; in 1880, shortly after Mineola was founded, a  
10 devastating inferno destroyed 18 buildings in the downtown area in  
11 the course of just one night; and

12           WHEREAS, In its early years, the Mineola Fire Company  
13 transported all its gear in wagons that were pulled by the members  
14 or, when possible, by horses; a motorized truck was not purchased  
15 until the mid-1910s; though the technology may have been relatively  
16 simple at that time, firefighting was an important and dangerous  
17 endeavor, and company members approached their jobs with great  
18 seriousness; volunteers had to apply for admission to the company,  
19 and those who failed to respond when summoned to duty faced stiff  
20 fines or dismissal; and

21           WHEREAS, Originally a private organization, the fire company  
22 became a city department in 1924 and purchased a new fire engine and  
23 a small pumper unit that same year; despite the use of city funds to  
24 outfit the department, all firefighters were unpaid volunteers for

1 many decades; by the 1940s, the fire chief was drawing a small  
2 salary of \$10 per month, and the first salaried regular members were  
3 added in 1954; nonetheless, volunteers continue to form the core of  
4 the Mineola Fire Department today, making up more than 80 percent of  
5 its personnel; and

6 WHEREAS, Regardless of their employment status, department  
7 members are highly trained experts who are certified through the  
8 Texas Commission on Fire Protection and the State Firemen's and  
9 Fire Marshals' Association of Texas; though the department  
10 initially focused on fire response, it is now prepared to handle a  
11 wide variety of emergencies; the staff includes emergency medical  
12 service personnel, hazardous material technicians, underwater  
13 rescue divers, fire and arson investigators, and personnel who are  
14 adept in a range of specialized rescue procedures; and

15 WHEREAS, These committed public servants are carrying forth  
16 the proud tradition of the Mineola Fire Department by using their  
17 skill and knowledge to protect the lives and property of city  
18 residents; for 100 years, the department's valiant firefighters and  
19 emergency responders have made Mineola a safer place to live and  
20 work, and their steadfast devotion to duty is deserving of the  
21 highest respect; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby congratulate the Mineola Fire Department on the  
24 centennial of its founding and commend its members for their  
25 dedicated service to the city; and, be it further

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

H.R. No. 1388

1 Texas House of Representatives.

Hughes

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1388 was adopted by the House on April 19, 2007, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House