

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 1388

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

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1 Texas House of Representatives.