

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 1971

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association,
2 also known as Local 341 of the International Association of Fire
3 Fighters, is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded in 1902, as part of the American Federation
5 of Labor, the HPFFA originally consisted of 65 members dedicated to
6 the improvement of the Houston Fire Department; that same year the
7 organization successfully lobbied the city for changes in the
8 city's charter pertaining to pensions for firefighters and police
9 officers; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1918, the International Association of Fire
11 Fighters was chartered in Baltimore with 5,400 members, and in
12 1932, the HPFFA became Local 341 of the IAFF; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, with 100 fire stations protecting 617 square
14 miles and the lives and property of some 2.1 million citizens, the
15 3,800 dedicated men and women of the Houston Fire Department
16 constitute the third largest fire department in the country, and
17 they are represented by the nation's third largest firefighter's
18 union; and

19 WHEREAS, The HPFFA has been dedicated to taking care of its
20 own since the Great Depression, when it passed around the coffee can
21 for the families of members killed in the line of duty; in 1952 a
22 Relative Assistance Fund was set up, and in 1977 the Last Alarm Club
23 was formed to assist the spouses and dependents of fallen
24 firefighters; and

1 WHEREAS, The union has likewise been committed to the
2 professional development of its members, offering college classes
3 in fire science, lobbying successfully for tuition waivers for
4 firefighters, and supporting two-year and four-year degree
5 programs in firefighting at Houston Community College and the
6 University of Houston; and

7 WHEREAS, With its annual "Fill the Boot" program, Local 341
8 has raised more money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association than
9 any other union in the nation, collecting over \$500,000 in 2006
10 alone and a total of \$3.8 million in the last 11 years; and

11 WHEREAS, For 75 years, the HPFFA has worked to ensure
12 important benefits and vital equipment for the men and women of this
13 dangerous profession, and it is fitting to pay tribute to the
14 organization for its central role in supporting these dedicated
15 public servants; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate the Houston Professional Fire
18 Fighters Association, Local 341 of the International Association of
19 Fire Fighters, on the 75th anniversary of its founding and extend to
20 its members best wishes for the future; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Local 341 as an expression of high regard by the Texas
23 House of Representatives.