

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 533**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to welcome members of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas on Firefighter Legislative Day at the State Capitol on March 21, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, The members of this esteemed organization are gathering to recognize and honor the tireless and heroic actions of the members of the Texas fire service; the names of four courageous volunteer firefighters who died in the line of duty are being unveiled at the volunteer firemen's monument on the Capitol grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, The firemen being honored are Bob Leslie Boyles, Jr., of the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department, who died March 19, 1981; Clint Rice of the Carleton Volunteer Fire Department, who died November 22, 2005; Chad Wessels of the Briggs Volunteer Fire Department, who died December 11, 2005; and James McMorries of the Howardwick Volunteer Fire Department, who died April 9, 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, The State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas is the oldest and the largest fire service organization in the state; the association was founded in 1876 and currently represents more than 1,100 fire departments, 18,000 individual members, and more than 80 industrial fire brigades; and

**WHEREAS**, The association sponsors and supports the world's largest fire-training school, held each summer at Texas A&M University; the association also provides instructors, scholarships to members, and professional service on the fire school's advisory board; and

**WHEREAS**, The cornerstone of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association is the certification program for volunteer firefighters, which encourages training, education, and certification for all volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, Approximately 70 percent of the firefighters providing fire service to the citizens of Texas are volunteer firefighters; they volunteer their valuable services, responding to emergency calls and attending training sessions to learn the latest firefighting techniques; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commend the firefighters of Texas for their courageous actions and devotion to duty on behalf of their fellow citizens and pay tribute to the volunteer firefighters who have died in the line of duty; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of the firefighters and fire marshals of Texas.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 21, 2007.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate