

By: Sheffield

H.R. No. 834

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Chief Gary O. Smith of the Temple Police Department
2 is celebrating 30 years of service with the department in 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, Chief Smith joined the department in 1979; a native
4 of Temple, he was born in Scott & White Memorial Hospital and
5 graduated from Temple High School in 1978; continuing his
6 education, he went on to earn an associate's degree in applied
7 sciences from Temple Junior College in 1981; and

8 WHEREAS, Fulfilling a childhood dream of a career in law
9 enforcement, Gary Smith first worked for the police department
10 part-time, in the jail and the photo lab; eight months later, he
11 became a full-time dispatcher; and

12 WHEREAS, He soon became a patrol officer, at a time when a new
13 recruit was simply handed a badge and a gun and sent out on the
14 streets with another officer; after two months on the job, he
15 embarked on his formal training as a cadet at the police academy;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Chief Smith excelled at his job from the beginning
18 of his career; he was named Rookie of the Year in 1981, and five
19 years later he was recognized as Officer of the Year; in 1988, he
20 established the department's Tactical Unit, and shortly thereafter
21 distinguished himself as the unit's leader; and

22 WHEREAS, This outstanding law enforcement professional
23 graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, in 1991, and
24 four years later he was promoted to commander and put in charge of

1 the newly created Operations Division; Commander Smith then served
2 three stints as interim chief until he was sworn in as Temple police
3 chief in 2004; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure with the department, Chief
5 Smith has enjoyed the unwavering support of his wife and three
6 children, and his dedication to duty, commitment to excellence, and
7 compassion for others have earned him the lasting respect and
8 admiration of his fellow officers and the greater community; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
11 Legislature hereby congratulate Chief Gary O. Smith on his 30 years
12 with the Temple Police Department and extend to him sincere best
13 wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Chief Smith as an expression of high regard by the
16 Texas House of Representatives.