

By: Keffer

H.R. No. 868

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is pleased to
2 welcome members of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals'
3 Association of Texas who are participating in Firefighter
4 Legislative Day at the State Capitol on March 25, 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, The State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association
6 of Texas is the oldest and largest fire service organization in the
7 Lone Star State; the association was founded in 1876 and currently
8 represents more than 1,200 fire departments, nearly 20,000
9 individual members, and over 80 industrial fire brigades; and

10 WHEREAS, The association sponsors and supports the world's
11 largest fire-training school, which is held each summer at Texas
12 A&M University; moreover, it offers an educational certification
13 program for volunteer firefighters and encourages training,
14 education, and certification for all volunteers, who make up
15 approximately 70 percent of Texas firefighters; and

16 WHEREAS, The members of this esteemed organization are
17 gathering to recognize and pay tribute to the tireless and heroic
18 actions of the members of the Texas fire service, and the names of
19 six courageous volunteer firefighters who died in the line of duty
20 are being added to the Volunteer Firemen monument on the Capitol
21 grounds; and

22 WHEREAS, Those firefighters being honored are Elmer Homilius
23 of the Comfort Volunteer Fire Department, who died on October 15,
24 1984, Austin Cheek and Kevin Williams of the Noonday Volunteer Fire

1 Department, who died on August 3, 2007, William Simes of the
2 Giddings Volunteer Fire Department, who died on September 25, 2007,
3 Robert Knight of the Teague Volunteer Fire Department, who died on
4 July 5, 2008, and Joe Jordan of the Pickton-Pine Forest Volunteer
5 Fire Department, who died on July 4, 2008; all of these valiant
6 individuals made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their
7 communities, and their vital service will not soon be forgotten;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association
10 of Texas is working to uphold its mission to promote, unify,
11 represent, and educate the fire service of Texas, and it is a
12 privilege to recognize the brave men and women who help safeguard
13 lives and property in communities all across the Lone Star State;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
16 Legislature hereby commend the firefighters of Texas for their
17 courageous actions and devotion to duty in behalf of their fellow
18 citizens and pay tribute to the volunteer firefighters who have
19 died in the line of duty.