

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 962

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, George Joseph Harrington has served his community as  
2 a valued member of the Del Rio Fire Department for more than 30  
3 years; and

4           WHEREAS, Joining the volunteer department in 1974, Joe  
5 Harrington became a paid firefighter on July 15, 1977, and his  
6 record of service has been marked by dedication and  
7 professionalism; promoted to lieutenant in 1990, he became the  
8 officer in charge of his station during his duty period; in this  
9 capacity, he assumed responsibility for personnel supervision,  
10 station activities, vehicles, and buildings; and

11           WHEREAS, Assistant Chief Harrington was again promoted in  
12 1996; as captain, he was assigned to the training division and  
13 oversaw all continuing education presentations; his tenure saw  
14 dramatic improvements in the operational efficiency of the  
15 division, including conversion to computerized recordkeeping for  
16 paid and volunteer training systems and the institution of the  
17 department's first fire investigation course, which resulted in  
18 State of Texas Fire Investigator certification for numerous  
19 firefighters and department officers; and

20           WHEREAS, Based on his excellent organizational and  
21 management skills, Assistant Chief Harrington was promoted to  
22 oversee operations of C shift, where he supervised lieutenants in  
23 charge of stations and coordinated shift operations; following this  
24 position, he was assigned to the code enforcement division as a

1 deputy fire marshal charged with investigating fires and supporting  
2 arson prosecutions; and

3 WHEREAS, While working in the code enforcement division, he  
4 conducted construction plan reviews to ensure buildings met fire  
5 code requirements as well as annual safety investigations of  
6 buildings housing large populations with complex regulations or  
7 special needs, including the local hospital, jail, and prison; and

8 WHEREAS, Assistant Chief Harrington's extensive knowledge of  
9 firefighting and his proven management abilities led to his  
10 promotion to assistant chief over the operations division in 2006  
11 and a stint as fire marshal from December 2005 until March 2007; and

12 WHEREAS, Recognized for his outstanding work, he was named  
13 Firefighter of the Year in 1984, 1991, and 1996; his bravery and  
14 devotion to duty also brought him a Medal of Honor for actions  
15 during the Del Rio Flood of 1998; and

16 WHEREAS, Those individuals who give of their time and talents  
17 to protect their fellow citizens are indeed worthy of all Texans'  
18 deepest respect and gratitude, and Joe Harrington may take  
19 justifiable pride in his years of service to Del Rio; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
22 Legislature hereby honor George Joseph Harrington for his  
23 outstanding tenure with the Del Rio Fire Department and extend to  
24 him sincere best wishes for continued success in all of his  
25 endeavors; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for Assistant Chief Harrington as an expression of high

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1 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.