

By: Rios Ybarra

H.R. No. 1606

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The brave and expert actions of U.S. Coast Guard
2 Petty Officer James M. Russell of Harlingen resulted in the rescue
3 of 24 people during Hurricane Ike; and

4 WHEREAS, Petty Officer Russell served as the flight mechanic
5 on CGNR 6512 from September 12 through 14, 2008; initially
6 dispatched to Bolivar Peninsula, he found seven people trapped on a
7 pickup truck amid Ike's harsh winds and pounding storm surge;
8 thanks to his skilled hoisting and concise conning commands, he was
9 able to deliver a rescue swimmer directly into the bed of the truck,
10 and when a wave knocked the rescue swimmer and a survivor into the
11 water, he quickly slackened the cable to provide them safe maneuver
12 before lifting them into the cabin; and

13 WHEREAS, While the storm continued to threaten the Texas
14 coast, Petty Officer Russell successfully retrieved an injured
15 woman from an obstacle-ridden street and went on to pick up another
16 13 people; he subsequently worked with a rescue swimmer to save
17 three survivors from the patio of a home, again demonstrating his
18 exceptional hoisting proficiency, and he then aided in the medical
19 evacuation of an elderly woman; and

20 WHEREAS, Exemplifying the highest ideals of the United States
21 Coast Guard, James Russell distinguished himself through his swift,
22 sure, and courageous response to Hurricane Ike, and he is indeed
23 deserving of his fellow citizens' deepest respect and appreciation;
24 now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
2 Legislature hereby commend Petty Officer James M. Russell for his
3 lifesaving rescue efforts during Hurricane Ike and extend to him
4 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Petty Officer Russell as an expression of high regard
7 by the Texas House of Representatives.