

By: King of Taylor

H.R. No. 2051

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Melvin Martin is retiring as chief of the Abilene
2 Police Department on May 31, 2009, drawing to a close a notable
3 career in law enforcement that has spanned four decades; and

4 WHEREAS, Chief Martin graduated from Eula High School in
5 1965; he served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 and went on to
6 earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Hardin-Simmons
7 University in 1976; and

8 WHEREAS, Chief Martin joined the Abilene Police Department as
9 a patrolman in 1969; in 1975, he became a member of the Juvenile
10 Division, and his success in addressing youth issues led to his
11 promotion to sergeant in 1978 and to lieutenant in 1980; and

12 WHEREAS, Named deputy chief in 1990, this outstanding law
13 enforcement professional became chief of the Abilene Police
14 Department in 1994; he has implemented numerous initiatives that
15 have had a positive effect on the community, including a program
16 that places criminal justice education officers in Abilene schools,
17 the Supporting Neighborhoods and Parents Program for at-risk youth,
18 and the Holiday Hills program; he also opened the Child Advocacy
19 Center in the Law Enforcement Center; and

20 WHEREAS, Chief Martin has made other outstanding
21 contributions to his community through his participation as a
22 member of the YMCA board for 18 years and the board of the Boys and
23 Girls Clubs of Abilene for 15 years; he founded the Taylor County
24 Juvenile Justice Association in 1980, and he has been president of

1 the Kiwanis Club and a member of the Governor's Statewide Advisory
2 Board on Homeland Security; he is currently president of the Texas
3 Police Chiefs Association; and

4 WHEREAS, The chief's many awards and recognitions include the
5 Liberty Bell Award from the Abilene Bar Association and the Friend
6 of Education Award from the Abilene Independent School District,
7 and he was nominated for the J. C. Penney Golden Rule Award from the
8 Boys and Girls Clubs of Abilene; and

9 WHEREAS, Chief Martin has been described as a tough man with a
10 soft side, and his dedication, professionalism, and commitment to
11 protect the safety and welfare of the public are greatly admired; he
12 is the longest-serving officer in APD's history, and his legacy of
13 achievements will continue to benefit the citizens of Abilene for
14 years to come; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
16 Legislature hereby congratulate Melvin Martin on his retirement as
17 chief of the Abilene Police Department and extend to him sincere
18 best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Chief Martin as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.