

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 2400

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the  
2 founding of the Midland Fire Department, and this milestone  
3 provides a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to this notable  
4 organization; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1909, in response to two disastrous downtown  
6 fires, a small group of volunteers formed the department to help  
7 protect the lives and property of the townspeople; initially, the  
8 firefighters used a single, small hose cart that they pulled from  
9 place to place; nonetheless, the Midland Fire Department quickly  
10 proved itself an essential public safety organization, and in 1919  
11 Luther Tidwell was appointed as its first chief; and

12 WHEREAS, Midland's population outgrew the service capacity  
13 of a volunteer force in the years following World War II, and in  
14 1948 James D. Walker, the second fire chief of Midland, became the  
15 city's first professional firefighter; shortly afterward, the  
16 volunteer force became a fully paid department; and

17 WHEREAS, With the passing decades, the department has taken  
18 on new duties; in 1972, it began providing emergency medical  
19 service to area citizens, and it also handles hazardous materials  
20 incidents as well as responding to a wide range of rescue  
21 situations; and

22 WHEREAS, Today, under the direction of chief Russ Conley, the  
23 Midland Fire Department employs nearly 200 highly trained personnel  
24 and staffs nine stations to serve an area of 900 square miles; as

1 this proud organization begins its second century of operations, it  
2 continues to seek new ways to further improve the vital services it  
3 provides to the residents of Midland, and its members may take  
4 justifiable pride in carrying forth the department's tradition of  
5 excellence; now, therefore, be it

6         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
7 Legislature hereby honor the Midland Fire Department for its 100  
8 years of service to the community and extend to all those involved  
9 with the department sincere best wishes for continued success; and,  
10 be it further

11         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for the department as an expression of high regard by the  
13 Texas House of Representatives.