

By: Keffer

H.R. No. 979

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of the State Firemen's and Fire  
2 Marshals' Association of Texas are gathering on March 23, 2011, to  
3 commemorate Firefighter Legislative Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, These esteemed men and women are paying tribute to  
5 the tireless and heroic actions of all members of the Texas fire  
6 service, and especially one courageous volunteer firefighter,  
7 Captain Thomas Araguz III, who died in the line of duty and whose  
8 name is being unveiled at the Volunteer Firemen monument on the  
9 Capitol grounds; and

10 WHEREAS, Captain Araguz was a member of the Wharton Volunteer  
11 Fire Department until his death on July 4, 2010, and his family is  
12 here with us today to honor his memory; and

13 WHEREAS, Founded in 1876, the State Firemen's and Fire  
14 Marshals' Association of Texas is the oldest fire service  
15 organization in the state; it is also the largest, with 1,200 fire  
16 and emergency services departments, more than 21,000 individual  
17 members, 80 industrial fire brigades, and 100 international  
18 members; and

19 WHEREAS, SFFMA sponsors and supports the world's largest  
20 fire-training school, held each summer at Texas A&M University; the  
21 association also provides instructors and professional services on  
22 the fire school's advisory board; and

23 WHEREAS, The cornerstone of SFFMA is the certification  
24 program for volunteer firefighters, which encourages training,

1 education, and certification for all volunteers; and

2 WHEREAS, Approximately 70 to 80 percent of Texas firefighters  
3 are volunteers who attend training sessions to learn the latest  
4 firefighting techniques and who contribute their time and effort to  
5 respond to emergency calls; and

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

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
13 Legislature hereby commend the firefighters of Texas for their  
14 courageous actions and devotion to duty in behalf of their fellow  
15 citizens and pay tribute to the volunteer firefighters who have  
16 died in the line of duty.