

By: Perry

H.R. No. 1274

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Jake Shea Jenkins of the Lubbock Fire Department  
2 passed away on March 27, 2011, at the age of 40, bringing a great  
3 loss to the community and to his family, fellow firefighters, and  
4 many friends; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Rockdale on September 30, 1970, Mr. Jenkins  
6 was the son of Kirby and Dorothy Jenkins; he demonstrated musical  
7 aptitude as a small child singing at family gatherings, and when a  
8 fifth-grade teacher encouraged him to take up an instrument, his  
9 father made him a banjo; at ease with any stringed instrument, he  
10 mastered the guitar, mandolin, and upright bass as well; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Jenkins studied bluegrass music at South Plains  
12 College and became a certified luthier; after graduating in 1992,  
13 he worked at Collings Guitars in Austin and played banjo on a  
14 part-time basis with the Karl Shiflett and Big Country Show; he  
15 began touring the country as a full-time member of the band in 1996  
16 and helped shape its sound with his Western-tinged style; in  
17 addition, he wrote the group's No. 1 bluegrass hit "Worries on My  
18 Mind," which also reached the top 10 on the Texas music charts, and  
19 he penned the popular songs "Cold, Cold Love" and "Turn Around"; and

20           WHEREAS, On December 14, 1996, he married Rhonda Smith, and  
21 the couple later became the parents of three treasured children,  
22 Eli, Maggie, and Ella; although Mr. Jenkins gave up touring with his  
23 band to spend more time with his young family, he continued to share  
24 his musical gifts as a member of the group Hickory Hill; and

1           WHEREAS, This multitalented Texan completed state training  
2 at South Plains College Fire Academy in 2004 and joined the Lubbock  
3 Fire Department in January 2005; promoted to equipment operator in  
4 2008, he drove fire engine No. 14 and was a certified rescue diver  
5 and member of the dive rescue team; his dedication,  
6 professionalism, and natural exuberance won the admiration and  
7 affection of his colleagues; and

8           WHEREAS, An avid outdoorsman, Mr. Jenkins served as a hunting  
9 guide and enjoyed boating, fishing, gardening, and repairing  
10 vintage trucks and recreational vehicles; he especially loved  
11 tinkering with his plane and piloting it to work or to performances  
12 from his home in Dickens, and he was in the process of building a log  
13 cabin; and

14           WHEREAS, Jake Jenkins was devoted to his family and his  
15 community, and he brought joy and laughter to innumerable people;  
16 although his life ended far too soon, those he left behind will  
17 forever treasure their memories of time spent in his company; now,  
18 therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Jake Shea Jenkins and  
21 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
22 wife, Rhonda Jenkins; to his children, Eli Jenkins, Maggie Marie  
23 Jenkins, and Ella Rose Jenkins; to his brother, Jason Jenkins; and  
24 to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

25           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jake Shea

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1 Jenkins.