

By: Kleinschmidt

H.R. No. 597

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 2011 Central Texas wildfires destroyed more than
2 1,600 homes and devastated the Bastrop State Park ecosystem, yet in
3 the aftermath of this terrible disaster, numerous emergency first
4 responders stepped forward to help the communities and their
5 citizens rebuild; and

6 WHEREAS, Among these outstanding volunteers were AmeriCorps
7 members from American YouthWorks who soon began working with
8 authorities in Bastrop; taking on key leadership positions, they
9 organized thousands of participants to help homeowners remove
10 debris; the initial team consisted of American YouthWorks and the
11 Washington Conservation Corps, and later these organizations were
12 joined by members of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community
13 Corps and the Hoopa Tribal Civilian Community Corps of California;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members devoted 9,336 hours to recovery
16 efforts in Bastrop County as well as in Travis and Waller Counties;
17 in addition, they recruited more than 4,000 volunteers who provided
18 over 26,000 hours of direct service to the region; together, the
19 groups assisted more than 190 households; and

20 WHEREAS, The OneStar Foundation, which supports AmeriCorps
21 programs as well as the nonprofit sector throughout the state of
22 Texas, has allocated resources to support American YouthWorks's
23 critical role in future times of disaster; and

24 WHEREAS, Through their hard work, cooperative spirit, and

1 dedication to the greater good, AmeriCorps members from American
2 YouthWorks contributed enormously to their community during a time
3 of dire need, and it is indeed fitting to honor them for their role
4 in the Central Texas wildfire recovery operations; now, therefore,
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
7 Legislature hereby commend American YouthWorks and its AmeriCorps
8 members for their service in the wake of the 2011 wildfires and
9 extend to them sincere gratitude for their accomplishments; and, be
10 it further

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