

By: Farney

H.R. No. 837

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Melissa Hightower of Liberty Hill has been named the
2 2014 Chuck Dennis Investigator of the Year by the Texas District and
3 County Attorneys Association; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Indiana, Melissa Hightower knew she
5 wanted to go into law enforcement since she was in high school; she
6 studied psychobiology and economics at Centre College in Danville,
7 Kentucky, and advanced through the ranks at the Opryland theme park
8 in Nashville to become a uniformed security officer; she later
9 moved to the Lone Star State to take a position at Fiesta Texas in
10 San Antonio, serving as a member of the security team and as the
11 theme park's state police liaison on criminal investigations; and

12 WHEREAS, Dedicated to realizing her career goals,
13 Ms. Hightower put herself through the police academy at San Antonio
14 College and became a peace officer with the Northside Independent
15 School District; she later received an offer of employment from the
16 Bexar County District Attorney's Office, where she was assigned a
17 high-profile capital murder case; in 1998, she was hired as an
18 investigator in the Williamson County Attorney's Office, and as a
19 result of tireless devotion to the job, she was promoted to chief
20 investigator in 2013; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Hightower is a longtime member of the Texas
22 District and County Attorneys Association; she has twice acted as
23 chair of the investigators section board, and she coauthored a
24 TDCAA training manual called *Case Preparation for Investigators*;

1 the association previously honored her with the Oscar Sherell Award
2 in 2006; and

3 WHEREAS, Through her expertise, compassion, and outstanding
4 work ethic, Melissa Hightower has set a remarkable example of
5 leadership to which others may aspire, and it is indeed a pleasure
6 to recognize her many professional achievements; now, therefore, be
7 it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate Melissa Hightower on her receipt of
10 the 2014 Chuck Dennis Investigator of the Year Award and extend to
11 her sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and,
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Melissa Hightower as an expression of high regard by
15 the Texas House of Representatives.