

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1198

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to  
2 a close with the passing of Michael Wayne Higgins, the chief of  
3 staff for the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters, on March 2,  
4 2015, at the age of 59; and

5           WHEREAS, Born on October 15, 1955, Mike Higgins embarked on  
6 his career in public safety in 1978, when he became a firefighter  
7 and paramedic for the Sherman Fire Department; he joined the staff  
8 of the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters in 1988, and for  
9 nearly three decades, he served as an advocate for firefighters  
10 throughout the state; and

11           WHEREAS, In his work as the TSAFF's chief of staff, Mr.  
12 Higgins tirelessly defended the health, safety, and well-being of  
13 his fellow firefighters; he negotiated labor contracts,  
14 represented firefighter rights in arbitration, and lobbied for  
15 safer equipment and working conditions; despite his reputation for  
16 being tough, he earned the respect and friendship of generations of  
17 public officials; and

18           WHEREAS, In 2005, his determined efforts helped lead to the  
19 adoption of the Sean McKinnis Charitable Solicitation Act, which  
20 allows firefighters to collect money on street corners throughout  
21 the state in behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association;  
22 moreover, Mr. Higgins assisted in the passage of similar laws in  
23 California, Illinois, Florida, and other states; and

24           WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Higgins enjoyed the love

1 and support of his wife, Peggy, and their three children; and

2 WHEREAS, Throughout a career in public safety that spanned 37  
3 years, Mike Higgins upheld the highest standards of his profession,  
4 and he leaves behind a record of achievement that his loved ones can  
5 remember with pride; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Michael Wayne Higgins  
8 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his  
9 wife, Peggy; to their three children; and to his other relatives and  
10 many friends and colleagues; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mike  
14 Higgins.