

By: Riddle

H.R. No. 1260

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a dedicated public servant drew to a
2 close with the passing of former Ponderosa Fire Department fire
3 chief John Peter O'Gorman on February 18, 2015, at the age of 72;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Hoboken, New Jersey, John O'Gorman was
6 born on November 30, 1942, to Arthur and Mary O'Gorman; he graduated
7 from the University of Notre Dame in 1964 and earned a master's
8 degree from Michigan State University the following year;
9 Mr. O'Gorman began his career with Shell Chemical in New York in
10 1966 and by the early 1970s had transferred to the company's Deer
11 Park facility; he served as emergency response coordinator there
12 from January 1981 until his retirement in December 1999; and

13 WHEREAS, John O'Gorman was committed to protecting and
14 serving his fellow citizens; a charter member of the Ponderosa Fire
15 Department, he held a number of important leadership positions
16 within the organization, including those of assistant chief,
17 training chief, and fire chief; he served in the latter capacity on
18 three occasions, from 1982 to 1985, 1994 to 1995, and 2000 to 2003;
19 moreover, he played an instrumental role in the establishment of
20 the PFD training facility as well as fire stations No. 2 and No. 3;
21 a valued mentor to a host of fellow firefighters, he retired from
22 the PFD in 2013 after four decades of dedicated service; and

23 WHEREAS, This esteemed gentleman additionally served for
24 many years as an instructor with the Texas A&M Engineering

1 Extension Service, sharing his skill and expertise with countless
2 students in its Municipal Fire School; Chief O'Gorman also helped
3 the Houston Fire Department to develop its HAZMAT Team, and he was a
4 charter member of the Hazardous Materials Committee of the
5 International Association of Fire Chiefs; and

6 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, John O'Gorman enjoyed the love
7 and support of his wife, Elaine; he was the proud father of two
8 children, Elena and Patrick, and he knew the joy of welcoming two
9 grandchildren, Madeline and Mary, into his cherished family; and

10 WHEREAS, When not engaged in his family or professional
11 responsibilities, Chief O'Gorman delighted in woodworking,
12 collecting fire department patches, and cheering on his beloved
13 Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team; he was also a valued
14 congregant of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in New
15 Braunfels; and

16 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family and his community, John
17 O'Gorman lived a caring and purposeful life, and he will forever be
18 remembered with great fondness and respect by his fellow
19 firefighters and by all who had the good fortune to know him; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of John Peter O'Gorman
23 and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his
24 wife, Mary Elaine Thelen-O'Gorman; to his children, Elena O'Gorman
25 and Patrick O'Gorman and his wife, Diane; to his grandchildren,
26 Madeline and Mary O'Gorman; and to his other relatives and many
27 friends; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of John Peter
4 O'Gorman.