

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Billy Parker is retiring as director of the Texas  
2 A&M Engineering Extension Service's Texas Task Force 1 on March 31,  
3 2015; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Parker began his long and distinguished career  
5 in public service in 1976, when he became a firefighter for the  
6 Clyde Fire Department; he went on to join the Texas A&M Engineering  
7 Extension Service, a state agency that trains public safety workers  
8 and provides emergency responders during large-scale crises;  
9 there, he helped establish the new Regional Texas Task Force System  
10 and develop an expansive and comprehensive training facility called  
11 Disaster City; in addition, he acted as chief of the TEEEX Recruit  
12 Academy and oversaw the training of more than 1,500 fire cadets; and

13           WHEREAS, Widely recognized as an expert in search and rescue,  
14 Mr. Parker also played a key role in the growth of the agency's  
15 Texas Task Force 1 from a small advisory board to one of the most  
16 called-upon rescue teams in the country; as a member of the task  
17 force, he was deployed during several prominent state and national  
18 disasters, including the A&M bonfire collapse, the World Trade  
19 Center attack, and Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike; he was named  
20 director of Texas Task Force 1 in 2012; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Parker received the TEEEX Distinguished Service  
22 Award in 2005 and the Regents Fellow Service Award from The Texas  
23 A&M University System Board of Regents the following year; and

24           WHEREAS, An engaged member of his community, Mr. Parker has

1 served as a volunteer firefighter, a paramedic, and a girls'  
2 softball coach; he has also been a valued congregant of Hillcrest  
3 Baptist Church for more than 22 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Through his loyalty, integrity, and unwavering  
5 commitment to the safety and well-being of his fellow Texans, Billy  
6 Parker has set a standard of leadership and service to which others  
7 may aspire, and he may reflect with pride on a career well spent;  
8 now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby congratulate Billy Parker on his retirement from  
11 the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service and extend to him  
12 sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it  
13 further

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

Martinez

H.R. No. 1510

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1510 was adopted by the House on March 25, 2015, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House