

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 1510

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.