

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 1972

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In recognition of a heroic act he performed over 44
2 years ago, former firefighter Ray Wells was honored when the mayor
3 of Waco declared February 9, 2015, as Ray Wells Day at a ceremony at
4 Waco Fire Station No. 1; and

5 WHEREAS, During the early 1970s, at the age of 26, Mr. Wells
6 was a member of the Waco Fire Department for a year and a half; at
7 eight o'clock in the morning of November 11, 1970, he came across a
8 house trailer with smoke pouring out of it, and he heard a woman
9 screaming that her daughters, ages one and three years old, were in
10 the trailer; and

11 WHEREAS, Although he was off duty at the time, Mr. Wells
12 rushed through the trailer's back door and crawled on his hands and
13 knees through the smoke and flames until he found the two children
14 lying unconscious on the floor of a back bedroom; he pulled them
15 from the trailer and discovered that they weren't breathing, so he
16 helped perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on each child; they
17 were rushed in the back of a patrol car to a local hospital, where
18 the girls were treated for smoke inhalation and minor burns and
19 released; and

20 WHEREAS, Now 71 years old and living in Temple, Mr. Wells was
21 reunited at the event in Waco with the two women he rescued more
22 than four decades ago; now in their 40s, Geni Burkhart and Tamara
23 Vetere traveled from their homes in Denver in order to surprise him
24 at the ceremony and thank him at long last for saving their lives;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, On that fateful day more than 44 years ago, Ray Wells
3 demonstrated tremendous courage and compassion in a desperate
4 situation, giving two women the greatest gift of all, a second
5 chance at life; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
7 Legislature hereby honor Ray Wells for his remarkable heroism and
8 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for Mr. Wells as an expression of high regard by the Texas
12 House of Representatives.