

By: Ashby

H.R. No. 2489

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Petty Officer Jordan Wagstaff of the U.S. Coast  
2 Guard is an outstanding young Texan who is paying tribute to fallen  
3 heroes while contributing to a worthy cause by participating in the  
4 first annual Tunnel to Towers Tower Climb in New York City on May  
5 17, 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, Sponsored by the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers  
7 Foundation and the Captain Billy Burke Foundation, this unique  
8 athletic event honors the memory of two New York City firefighters  
9 who lost their lives in the collapse of the Twin Towers on September  
10 11, 2001; on that fateful day, Stephen Siller of Squad 1 in Park  
11 Slope, Brooklyn, was off-duty when he responded without hesitation  
12 to help those in need at the World Trade Center, running with over  
13 60 pounds of gear through a blocked-off tunnel to the site of the  
14 disaster; Captain William Burke led and encouraged his fellow  
15 firefighters on their climb, calling out his support to them even as  
16 he remained behind to rescue two workers when the second building  
17 collapsed; and

18 WHEREAS, During the Tunnel to Tower competition, 1,000  
19 participants will reenact that heroic effort as they climb 90  
20 floors, or 180 flights of stairs, in One World Trade Center, the new  
21 skyscraper built on the site of the original World Trade Center; the  
22 climb's participants will also raise money for such worthy causes  
23 as building 200 new homes for disabled veterans, supporting service  
24 members with catastrophic injuries, and funding the education of

1 children who have lost a parent; and

2 WHEREAS, The son of James and Charlotte Wagstaff, Jordan  
3 Wagstaff was born in Nacogdoches on February 11, 1987, and attended  
4 Lufkin High School; answering his nation's call to duty, he  
5 arranged to graduate early so that he could join the U.S. Coast  
6 Guard in 2005; he is stationed in New York City as a duty section  
7 leader for the Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security unit, a  
8 counterterrorism effort devoted to protecting critical maritime  
9 infrastructure as well as the Statue of Liberty, the George  
10 Washington Bridge, and other important sites; and

11 WHEREAS, Petty Officer Wagstaff has long dedicated himself to  
12 the defense of our nation, and his involvement in this  
13 inspirational athletic competition provides a meaningful way to  
14 further honor the memory of two brave Americans who gave their lives  
15 in the service of others; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby commend U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Jordan  
18 Wagstaff on his participation in the first annual Tunnel to Towers  
19 Tower Climb and recognize him for his exemplary service; and, be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
22 prepared for Petty Officer Wagstaff as an expression of high regard  
23 by the Texas House of Representatives.