

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 3335

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Waco Police Department, the McLennan
2 County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and
3 other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies responded
4 swiftly and forcefully to a violent melee in Waco on May 17, 2015,
5 that left 9 people dead, 18 injured, and 170 under arrest; and

6 WHEREAS, On that Sunday afternoon, five rival motorcycle
7 clubs took part in a meeting at a sports bar near Interstate 35, and
8 the tensions between the groups soon led to a violent altercation
9 that resulted in open combat with chains and knives and culminated
10 in a wild exchange of gunfire; and

11 WHEREAS, More than 10 days before the incident, the Criminal
12 Investigation Division and the gang investigator of the Waco PD
13 became aware of the danger posed by this upcoming meeting of the
14 organizations, and they began to prepare their response, planning
15 to be present at the event to gather intelligence and to act if
16 necessary; and

17 WHEREAS, By noon of May 17, units from DPS and Waco PD were on
18 hand at the sports bar; when the first shots were fired by 12:25
19 p.m., troopers and police officers responded swiftly, and despite
20 the chaos of the situation, they managed to secure the scene by 1:25
21 p.m.; and

22 WHEREAS, Over the next 12 hours, law enforcement officers
23 from agencies all over Central Texas, as well as federal agents,
24 arrived to assist in the massive effort to tend to those wounded and

1 killed, take statements from the hundreds of suspects and
2 witnesses, and gather the huge amount of evidence present at the
3 scene; and

4 WHEREAS, This enormous, cross-jurisdictional effort was
5 coordinated by Waco Police Chief Brent Stroman and McLennan County
6 Sheriff Parnell McNamara, with Waco PD Sergeant W. Patrick Swanton
7 serving as press spokesperson; along with the Waco PD and DPS, the
8 law enforcement agencies and personnel that participated included
9 the Texas Rangers, the McLennan County Sheriff's Office, the
10 McLennan County Constables Office, McLennan County correctional
11 officers, the FBI, the DEA, and the police departments of Austin,
12 Robinson, Hewitt, Woodway, Lorena, and West; and

13 WHEREAS, The foresight, careful planning, and swift action by
14 officers of the Waco PD and DPS, as well as the vital assistance of
15 many other local, state, and federal agencies, prevented the
16 shocking events of May 17 from resulting in an even greater tragedy,
17 and the citizens of Waco and Central Texas owe a debt of gratitude
18 to these courageous men and women for their expertise in quickly
19 putting a stop to the violence; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
21 Legislature hereby commend all those law enforcement professionals
22 who responded to the incident in Waco on May 17, 2015, and extend to
23 the officers and agents sincere appreciation for a job well done;
24 and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for the agencies involved as an expression of high regard
27 by the Texas House of Representatives.