

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 435

In Memory
of
Mike Higgins

WHEREAS, Mike Higgins of Austin, chief of staff of the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters, passed away on March 2, 2015, at the age of 59; and

WHEREAS, A native Texan, Mr. Higgins was born in El Paso to Owen and Dixie Belew Higgins on October 15, 1955; he grew up with the companionship of his brother and sister, Marcus and Judy, and graduated from Sherman High School before going on to attend Grayson College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Higgins began his career as a firefighter and paramedic with the Sherman Fire Department in 1978; eventually, he developed an interest in the implications of public policy for the safety and well-being of firefighters, and he was inspired to join the staff of the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters in 1988; in the course of his work, he represented the organization as a lobbyist, negotiated labor contracts, and backed firefighters during arbitrations; and

WHEREAS, Among the achievements in which Mike Higgins took particular pride were the passage of the first "meet and confer" law supporting the right of firefighters to organize for collective bargaining and another law permitting them to collect donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association; he also played a key role in the establishment of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection in the 1990s, and even as he battled illness during the later years of his life, he rarely missed a commission meeting; during his many years in public service, he further shared his expertise on health, labor, transportation, and various other matters pertaining to state government; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Higgins was sustained by the love and support of his wife of 38 years, Peggy, his children, Hillary, Katie, and Stephen, and his grandson, Micah; he treasured the time he spent with his family, and as a "recovering golfer," he took pains to devote his leisure hours to other activities; and

WHEREAS, Steadfast in his commitment to Texas firefighters, Mike Higgins made a profound impact in the lives of those who swear the oath of this noble profession, and his achievements will be remembered and admired for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Mike Higgins and extend heartfelt condolences to the members of his family: to his wife, Peggy Hurley Higgins; to his children, Katie Higgins Pratt

S.R. No. 435

and her husband, Heath, Stephen Higgins, and Hillary Higgins; to his grandson, Micah Pratt; to his siblings, Marcus Higgins and Judy Higgins Kropf; and to his other relatives, his many friends, and his fellow firefighters across the Lone Star State; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mike Higgins.

Menéndez

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 31, 2015, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate