

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 703

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In 2017, the Texas Task Force 1
2 urban-search-and-rescue team is celebrating 20 years of saving
3 lives in the Lone Star State and across the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Texas Task Force 1 was established by the Texas
5 Legislature in 1997 to train firefighters, medical specialists,
6 dogs and their handlers, heavy equipment operators, structural
7 engineers, and other specialty first responders in the techniques
8 of search, rescue, and recovery, so that these skilled personnel
9 might deploy during times of natural or man-made disaster; and

10 WHEREAS, Headquartered in College Station, TX-TF1 is
11 sponsored by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service and
12 operates under the direction of the Texas Division of Emergency
13 Management; the task force coordinates the state's swift-water
14 rescue program and, in conjunction with Texas Military Forces, the
15 state's Helicopter Search and Rescue Team; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, the unit has been
17 deployed by three governors to 87 disasters within the state, and
18 its members have removed, rescued, or recovered countless Texans
19 during such severe weather events as the 2015 Blanco River Flood and
20 the 2016 Dallas--Fort Worth Metroplex tornadoes; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2001, the Federal Emergency Management Agency
22 designated this elite group as one of 28 national search-and-rescue
23 teams, and TX-TF1 has since played a vital role in the response to
24 42 disasters outside of the state, including Hurricanes Katrina,

1 Rita, and Ike and the attack on the World Trade Center in New York
2 City on September 11, 2001; and

3 WHEREAS, For 20 years, the skilled and intrepid men and women
4 of Texas Task Force 1 have swiftly answered the call to action and
5 delivered expert and compassionate assistance to people in their
6 hour of direst need, and they are truly deserving of special
7 recognition on this notable occasion; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
9 Legislature hereby commemorate the 20th anniversary of Texas Task
10 Force 1 and extend to its members sincere gratitude for their
11 lifesaving efforts and best wishes for continued success in their
12 important work; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Texas Task Force 1 as an expression of high regard by
15 the Texas House of Representatives.