

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life marked by tremendous courage and resolve came
2 to an untimely end with the passing of William Dowling, a former
3 captain in the Houston Fire Department, on March 7, 2017, at the age
4 of 43; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on March 14, 1973,
6 Bill Dowling was the son of Mary and Rick Dowling; he moved with his
7 family to Texas in his youth and graduated from Klein Oak High
8 School in Spring in 1993; after joining the United States Marine
9 Corps, he advanced to the rank of corporal and served in a number of
10 locations, including Somalia, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia; his
11 military awards included a Combat Action Ribbon, a Good Conduct
12 Medal, a Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a National Defense
13 Service Medal, a Southwest Asia Service Medal, and a Sea Service
14 Deployment Ribbon; and

15 WHEREAS, Imbued with a passion for public service, Bill
16 Dowling pursued a career as a firefighter after returning to
17 civilian life; he joined the Champions Fire Department and then, in
18 2000, the Houston Fire Department, where he rose through the ranks
19 while working in some of the city's busiest stations; his years on
20 the job were made all the more fulfilling by the strong bond of
21 camaraderie that he shared with his brothers and sisters in
22 uniform; and

23 WHEREAS, Captain Dowling demonstrated the true depth of his
24 commitment to duty as one of the first responders who were called to

1 battle a massive five-alarm fire at the Southwest Inn on May 31,
2 2013, the deadliest day in the history of the Houston Fire
3 Department; when the roof of the hotel collapsed, he lost four of
4 his comrades and sustained life-altering injuries, which forced him
5 to retire from the career he loved; and

6 WHEREAS, This inspiring Texan earned the nickname "Iron Bill"
7 during his long, valiant effort to recover in the four years after
8 he left the department; he drew comfort and encouragement from the
9 love of his wife of 23 years, Jacki, and their treasured children,
10 Forrest, Faith, and Foster; in the course of his struggles, his
11 faith became a guiding light, and he took pride in having read every
12 page of the Bible; and

13 WHEREAS, Captain Bill Dowling found his purpose in serving a
14 cause greater than himself, and when tragedy cast a shadow over his
15 future, his determination and bravery in fighting back captured the
16 hearts of countless people; he will be greatly missed by his family,
17 friends, and former colleagues, who will never forget his sacrifice
18 or the extraordinary strength of character that defined his life;
19 now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of William Dowling and
22 extend sincere condolences to all those who mourn his passing; and,
23 be it further

H.R. No. 948

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William
4 Dowling.

Wu
Swanson

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 948 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 21, 2017.

Chief Clerk of the House