

By: Wu

H.R. No. 948

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

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William  
27 Dowling.