

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 467

In Memory  
of  
William Dowling

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Captain Dowling demonstrated the true depth of his commitment to duty as one of the first responders who were called to battle a massive five-alarm fire at the Southwest Inn on May 31, 2013, the deadliest day in the history of the Houston Fire Department; when the roof of the hotel collapsed, he lost four of his comrades and sustained life-altering injuries, which forced him to retire from the career he loved; and

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

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

S.R. No. 467

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of William Dowling and extend sincere condolences to all those who mourn his passing; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William Dowling.

Bettencourt

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 20, 2017, by a rising vote.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate