86R19757 KSM-D

By:  Zwiener H.R. No. 845

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The citizens of San Marcos suffered a tragic loss when Officer Kenneth Malcolm Copeland of the San Marcos Police Department lost his life in the line of duty on December 4, 2017, at the age of 58; and

WHEREAS, A native of Houma, Louisiana, Ken Copeland was born on November 26, 1959, to Nile and Theo Copeland; he grew up with the companionship of two brothers, David and Robert, and a sister, Jennifer, and he moved with his family to Houston in 1971; after graduating with a bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University, he began his law enforcement career in 1982 as a corrections officer, working first in Huntsville with the Texas Department of Corrections and then in San Jose, California, from 1988 to 1990; he went on to serve as a deputy sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office from 1990 to 1995; and

WHEREAS, In March 1998, Officer Copeland took his oath as a member of the San Marcos Police Department, and while fulfilling his duties to the public, he continued his professional development by earning certification as a master peace officer; in addition, he concurrently spent 18 years in the United States Coast Guard, which included service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and additional work providing port security as a maritime enforcement specialist in Corpus Christi; along the way, he also enjoyed working with children in various capacities, and in 2017, he was honored with the San Marcos PD Chief's Recognition Award for his contributions as a volunteer den leader for a local in-school scouting program; and

WHEREAS, Officer Copeland was blessed with the love and support of his wife, Sheila Copeland, and he was the proud father of two sets of twin boys, Nile, Noah, James, and Jonah; he also treasured his nephews and nieces, Jason, Bradley, Joseph, Samantha, Stephanie, and Alyssa, and his goddaughter, Sophie; and

WHEREAS, A courageous law enforcement officer, Ken Copeland embodied the highest ideals of his profession, and although he is greatly missed, his friendship, generosity, and selfless devotion to his family and community will remain a lasting source of inspiration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Officer Kenneth Malcolm Copeland and extend heartfelt condolences to his relatives, friends, and fellow officers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ken Copeland.