86R19937 JGH-D

By:  Springer H.R. No. 853

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Firefighters from across Texas are gathering at the State Capitol on March 19, 2019, for Firefighter Appreciation Day and a memorial service honoring their fallen comrades; and

WHEREAS, The event is hosted by the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, which represents 22,000 individual members, more than 1,200 fire departments, and 80 industrial fire brigades in the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, Each year, on average, six firefighters in Texas die in the line of duty; though improvements in safety oversight have resulted in a decrease by half of the number of deaths over the past 15 years, firefighting remains one of the most dangerous professions; and

WHEREAS, At the ceremony in Austin, 11 firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice between 2002 and 2018 are being honored by their peers and their families; these heroes include Travis Wiens of the Wichita West Fire Department, Scott Deem of San Antonio FD, Jarrell B. Hinkie of the Silsbee Volunteer Fire Department, Eric Zapalac of Sealy FD, Daryl Barber of Brazoria VFD, Charles Patterson of Bowie Rural VFD, M. V. Hudson of New London FD, Larry Marusik of Ellinger VFD, Caleb Scott of North Richland Hills FD, Bernard Olive of Baytown FD, and Frankie Partida Jr. of Glen Flora VFD; and

WHEREAS, Every day, firefighters and other emergency responders risk their own lives to protect the lives of their fellow citizens, and these skilled and courageous men and women deserve the heartfelt gratitude of every Texan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Texas firefighters who have died in the line of duty and extend sincere sympathy to the members of their families; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Travis Wiens, Scott Deem, Jarrell B. Hinkie, Eric Zapalac, Daryl Barber, Charles Patterson, M. V. Hudson, Larry Marusik, Caleb Scott, Bernard Olive, and Frankie Partida Jr.