

By: Zwiener

H.R. No. 845

R E S O L U T I O N

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

5           WHEREAS, A native of Houma, Louisiana, Ken Copeland was born  
6 on November 26, 1959, to Nile and Theo Copeland; he grew up with the  
7 companionship of two brothers, David and Robert, and a sister,  
8 Jennifer, and he moved with his family to Houston in 1971; after  
9 graduating with a bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State  
10 University, he began his law enforcement career in 1982 as a  
11 corrections officer, working first in Huntsville with the Texas  
12 Department of Corrections and then in San Jose, California, from  
13 1988 to 1990; he went on to serve as a deputy sheriff with the Los  
14 Angeles County Sheriff's Office from 1990 to 1995; and

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

1 contributions as a volunteer den leader for a local in-school  
2 scouting program; and

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

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

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

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