WHEREAS, The thousands of deaths caused by COVID-19 in Texas have created a tremendous void in families, communities, and workplaces throughout the state; among those who lost their lives in the pandemic was Barry Deckard, a dedicated and well-respected employee of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, who passed away on November 15, 2020, at the age of 52; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deckard worked at The University of Texas Medical Branch Correctional Managed Care facility at the Hodge Unit in Rusk and served as a mental health case manager in the developmental disabilities program; a man of deep faith, he was an active member of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Nacogdoches; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Deckard enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Kem, with whom he shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 30 years; he was the proud father of four children, Danielle, Casey, Courtney, and Steven, and he mentored numerous other young people while coaching his children's softball teams; an avid NASCAR fan, he also loved country and gospel music and enjoyed barbecuing, fishing, and other outdoor activities; highly respected by his coworkers, he was known for his kindness and loyalty, as well as his willingness to help others; and

WHEREAS, Barry Deckard faithfully and ably performed his duties throughout his tenure with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and he will long be remembered with great admiration by all who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it
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RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Barry Deckard and extend deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and colleagues; 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 Barry Deckard.