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By:  White H.R. No. 131

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Officer William McKeon Jr. of the Sour Lake Police Department is being presented with a Star of Texas Award on September 11, 2021, at a ceremony in Austin; and

WHEREAS, Established by the 78th Texas Legislature in 2003, the Star of Texas Awards annually recognize first responders who have been seriously injured or killed in the line of duty; recipients are selected by three advisory committees appointed by the governor; and

WHEREAS, On May 27, 2019, Officer Bill McKeon was called to investigate a suspicious person at a local convenience store, and as soon as he stepped out of his patrol car, he was attacked and beaten by his assailant; the brutal assault left Officer McKeon in a coma for a time, and his severe injuries required several surgeries, a nine-month stay in the hospital, and many months of therapy; and

WHEREAS, This veteran peace officer began his career in the early 1980s, and he worked for the Port Arthur Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Office before joining the Sour Lake Police Department; his recovery from his injuries was aided by the love of his family and the support of his fellow police officers as well as his community, which organized fundraisers to help with his medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, Texans owe an immense debt of gratitude to the men and women of the law enforcement profession who willingly place themselves in harm's way to protect and serve the public, and Officer Bill McKeon's courage and dedication make him truly deserving of special commendation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby honor Officer William McKeon Jr. on his receipt of a 2021 Star of Texas Award and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Officer McKeon as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.