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By:  Tinderholt H.R. No. 43

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Members of the Arlington Fire Department TIFMAS strike team demonstrated exceptional commitment and bravery by helping to battle wildfires in California in September and October of 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Arlington unit was formed in 2011 as part of the Texas Interstate Fire Mutual Aid System, a state-funded regional deployment initiative established to fight large-scale wildfires; the North Texas TIFMAS contingent sent to California included personnel from the Fort Worth and Flower Mound Fire Departments, and the Arlington FD was represented by strike team leaders Chris Balough and Jeff Durand, engine bosses Shawn Corder and Brandon Reynolds, and firefighters Joseph Markham, Danny Martin, David Oliver, and Ryan King; and

WHEREAS, Deployed for more than three weeks, the team traveled over 6,000 miles in assisting California firefighters during the state's worst wildfire season on record; the unit was assigned to the August Complex Fire in Northern California, near Ukiah, and employed five brush trucks and a strike team leader vehicle in battling the massive blaze; assignments included patrolling fire lines, extinguishing hotspots, laying hose lines, and setting backfires to burn vegetation in front of advancing flames; and

WHEREAS, In answering the call of duty during this catastrophic crisis, the members of the Arlington Fire Department TIFMAS strike team risked their own safety to protect and serve their fellow Americans, and they have earned the profound admiration of their community and state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend the Arlington Fire Department TIFMAS strike team for its outstanding service during the recent wildfires in California and extend to its members sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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