87R14049 CJM-D

By:  King of Uvalde H.R. No. 420

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Juan J. Meza retired as the Zapata County fire chief in December 2020, drawing to a close a distinguished tenure with the department; and

WHEREAS, While still a student at Zapata High School, this esteemed public servant began his career as a member of the Zapata County Volunteer Fire Department in 1973; following his graduation, he became the county's assistant civil defense coordinator, and he went on to serve the county as its fire marshal and as its emergency management coordinator; assuming the role of fire chief in 2002, he helped to establish the Zapata County Fire Department, which gained a mobile intensive care unit, paramedics, and rescue dive and hazmat teams during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of the National Fire Academy, Chief Meza holds certification as an advanced firefighter, an advanced arson investigator, and a master peace officer as well as an emergency medical technician and a code enforcement officer; he has received a number of prestigious accolades over the years, including the Roscoe Gibson Award from the Texas Fire Marshal's Association, a congressional certificate of recognition, and a certificate of commendation from the U.S. Senate, and he was recognized by the Texas Division of Emergency Management in 2019 with induction into its Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Chief Meza has given generously of his time and energy to such worthy organizations as the Emergency Management Association of Texas, the Texas Fire Marshal's Association, and the South Texas Fire Investigators Association-RGV; and

WHEREAS, Juan Meza's dedication, courage, and professionalism have greatly benefited the residents of Zapata County, and he may reflect with pride on all that he accomplished in his role as fire chief; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Juan J. Meza on his retirement as chief of the Zapata County Fire Department and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in all his endeavors; and, be it further

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