87R18346 JGH-D

By:  Dean H.R. No. 582

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Chief J. P. Steelman of the Longview Fire Department was appointed chair of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection by Governor Greg Abbott in March 2021; and

WHEREAS, A firefighter since 1985, J. P. Steelman joined the Longview Fire Department in 1990; he was promoted to driver/engineer in 1998, and in 2000, he was transferred to the Training Division as a training/safety officer; he returned to Operations in 2003 with a promotion to captain, and he was appointed senior captain in 2006 and battalion chief in 2007; he was named city fire chief in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his exemplary 30-year tenure with the department, Chief Steelman has been active with the Water Rescue/Dive Team, the Hazmat/Special Operations Team, the Recruiting Team, and the Hiring Board, and he is a charter member of the Honor Guard; a licensed paramedic, he has earned numerous certifications, including the Executive Fire Officer certification from the National Fire Academy and the Certified Fire Executive designation from the Texas Fire Chiefs Academy; and

WHEREAS, A statewide leader in his profession, Chief Steelman served on the Firefighter Advisory Committee of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection from 2007 to 2017, when he was appointed as a commissioner; he has served as regional director for the Northeast Region of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association and as a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System, the Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team, the East Texas Council of Governments Homeland Security Advisory Committee, and Texas A&M Task Force 1; since 1996, he has taught at the Kilgore College Fire Academy, where he earned an associate's degree in the area of fire protection technology and fire protection certification; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steelman has also found time to give back to his community as a member and former president of the Longview-Greggton Rotary Club and through his service on the board of SeeSaw Children's Place and the citizen's advisory panel for the Sabine Industrial District; in all his endeavors, he enjoys the love and support of his wife, Becky, and their four children; and

WHEREAS, Chief Steelman's dedication, expertise, and commitment to the safety of the public have greatly benefited the citizens of his city and his state, and he may indeed reflect with pride on his many achievements as he takes on the challenges and opportunities of his prestigious new position; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend Chief J. P. Steelman on his appointment as chair of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and extend to him sincere best wishes for a successful tenure; and, be it further

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