87R21332 JGH-D

By:  Toth H.R. No. 905

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Deputy Chief Jerry Bittner retired from The Woodlands Fire Department on April 1, 2021, drawing to a close an outstanding career with the department that spanned four decades; and

WHEREAS, The longest serving employee of TWFD and The Woodlands Township, Chief Bittner first joined the department as a recruit in July 1981; rising steadily through the ranks, he earned promotions to firefighter 3rd class, chauffeur, lieutenant, and shift captain; in 1990, he was appointed captain of Support Services, and since 1996, he has served as deputy chief, including five months as acting chief; he is retiring as deputy chief of training and EMS; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his exemplary 40-year tenure with the department, Chief Bittner helped design and manage the construction of the department's headquarters and central fire station as well as the Emergency Training Center and Stations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8; he also oversaw the renovation of Fire Station 2, and from 1996 to 2017, he chaired the apparatus committee and was responsible for managing the acquisition of the department's current fleet of vehicles; and

WHEREAS, One of Chief Bittner's most significant achievements was the consolidation of a patchwork of fire dispatch systems into one system managed by The Woodlands Fire Department; the new cohesive system allows for close cooperation with 12 Montgomery County fire departments and the Montgomery County Hospital District, ensuring residents of The Woodlands a rapid response and a state-of-the-art 9-1-1 system; and

WHEREAS, Chief Bittner's dedication, encyclopedic knowledge of the department, and commitment to excellence have greatly benefited the citizens of The Woodlands and earned him the respect and admiration of his fellow firefighters, and he may indeed reflect with pride on a career well spent as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Deputy Chief Jerry Bittner on his retirement from The Woodlands Fire Department 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 Chief Bittner as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.