87R23201 CJM-D

By:  Herrero H.R. No. 1032

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Ruben Perez is retiring as Fire Chief of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on May 31, 2021, drawing to a close a distinguished career as a firefighter that has spanned more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, A native of Ozona, Ruben Perez served in the U.S. Navy from 1983 to 1989, and shortly after his discharge at the rank of Petty Officer Third Class, he joined the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Services at NAS Corpus Christi; in 1990, he transferred to the Naval Station Ingleside Fire and Emergency Services Department, where he served as Firefighter, Engineer, Captain, and Assistant Chief; in 1996, he graduated cum laude from Del Mar College with an associate's degree in fire science; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perez became Fire Chief at NAS Kingsville in 2001, and in 2004, he simultaneously took on the position of Fire Chief at NAS Corpus Christi; by 2005, he was the Fire Chief for three installations, NAS Corpus Christi, NAS Kingsville, and NS Ingleside, managing seven district areas staffed by 16 engine companies; under his leadership, NS Ingleside was named Department of the Navy Small Fire Department of the Year and NAS Corpus Christi was named CNRSE Large Fire Department of the Year; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Chief Perez also oversaw 60 firefighters in the response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, implemented civil service upgrades of more than a hundred firefighters, helped develop the Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device Program, and assisted the Secret Service in conjunction with visits by Vice President Dick Cheney and President George H. W. Bush, among many other achievements; and

WHEREAS, After the merger of Navy Region Southeast, Chief Perez resumed service as Fire Chief of NAS Kingsville, which was named Navy Medium Category Fire Department of the Year in 2009, and since October 2017, he has been the Fire Chief of NAS Corpus Christi; his many commendations and awards include the Good Conduct Medal, two Civilian of the Year awards, Navy Fire Chief of the Year, CNRSE Fire Chief of the Year, Senior Civilian of the Year, and the Navy Civilian Meritorious Award; in his private life, he is active with his church, the Knights of Columbus, and youth football and baseball leagues, and in all his endeavors, he benefits from the love and support of his children, Brandon, Brianna, and Blake; and

WHEREAS, Ruben Perez has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to protecting the lives and property of his fellow citizens, and he may reflect with pride on a career well spent; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Chief Ruben Perez on his retirement from Naval Air Station Corpus Christi 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 Perez as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.