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H.R. No. 250

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, In the midst of the massive winter storm that  
2 devastated Texas during the week of February 15, 2021, first  
3 responders, emergency services personnel, and other frontline  
4 workers made extraordinary efforts to save lives and property and  
5 bring urgent relief to Texans in need; and

6           WHEREAS, As the storm engulfed the state, temperatures  
7 plunged to near-historic lows in many areas, leading to heavy  
8 accumulations of snow, ice, and freezing rain; the power grid that  
9 covers much of the state struggled to keep up with soaring demand  
10 for electricity, resulting in mass power outages that affected some  
11 four million households; the crisis escalated as families were left  
12 without power through several days of subfreezing weather, while  
13 icy conditions rendered roads impassable and brought travel to a  
14 standstill across the state; further compounding the misery, water  
15 lines froze and ruptured, forcing residences, businesses, and even  
16 hospitals in some communities to contend with water shortages; and

17           WHEREAS, At great risk to their own safety, emergency medical  
18 personnel, police, and firefighters continued to carry out their  
19 lifesaving work, persevering through sleet and snow to rescue  
20 stranded motorists and other citizens in danger; health care  
21 providers, already burdened with heavy workloads and high levels of  
22 stress, also bravely answered the call of duty, even as perilous  
23 roadway conditions made it difficult to travel to work; meanwhile,  
24 public works employees and transportation crews took to the task of

1 deicing roads, and other city employees staffed warming shelters  
2 and coordinated emergency resources throughout the duration of the  
3 crisis; and

4         WHEREAS, Utility line workers labored around the clock to  
5 repair storm damage and restore power to homes and businesses,  
6 while water utility and water treatment plant employees worked  
7 overtime to attend to water supply disruptions; plumbers and  
8 contractors were also met with overwhelming demand, as critical  
9 numbers of Texas homeowners dealt with damaged pipes and water  
10 heaters; in addition, the efforts of grocery store employees, food  
11 warehouse workers, and truck drivers were crucial to mitigating  
12 interruptions to the food supply chain and ensuring that storm  
13 victims were able to keep their families fed; and

14         WHEREAS, As cities and towns across Texas were reeling from a  
15 weather event of historic magnitude, the essential workers of our  
16 state bravely and selflessly stepped forward to provide much-needed  
17 aid and support to their communities, and they have earned the  
18 heartfelt gratitude of their fellow Texans; now, therefore, be it

19         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby honor the police, firefighters, health care  
21 personnel, and other workers who helped their communities endure  
22 the winter storm of February 2021 and extend sincere best wishes to  
23 these heroic men and women for their continued health and safety.