

By: Darby

H.R. No. 1044

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Department of Public Safety plays an
2 essential role in safeguarding the Capitol Complex in Austin in
3 addition to its many other important law enforcement duties, and
4 the exemplary service of DPS officers has proven especially
5 valuable in meeting the unique security challenges that have
6 existed at the statehouse over the past year; and

7 WHEREAS, Upholding their mission to "Protect and Serve
8 Texas," DPS personnel across the state distinguish themselves on a
9 daily basis as they carry out their vital work; the officers
10 assigned to the agency's Capitol Region are tasked with policing
11 the State Capitol and the surrounding area, which encompasses many
12 state government facilities; supervised by the regional director,
13 the command includes commissioned and noncommissioned personnel
14 who are divided into various districts that span the
15 46-square-block complex; and

16 WHEREAS, The responsibilities of these dedicated public
17 servants include providing security for the Capitol grounds and for
18 visiting dignitaries, staffing entrances to the building, and
19 monitoring surveillance cameras to ensure a safe and orderly
20 environment at the statehouse; moreover, they supervise traffic and
21 parking, investigate crimes, conduct vulnerability assessments,
22 and handle crowd control during rallies and demonstrations; and

23 WHEREAS, Beginning in late May of 2020, additional DPS
24 officers were assigned to the Texas Capitol as a result of ongoing

1 protests taking place in the area; arriving from locations all
2 around the state, these peace officers helped to maintain safety
3 and to protect the historic property from damage; the Capitol
4 remained closed for nearly seven months, with an increased
5 contingent of DPS troopers remaining on site into 2021; and

6 WHEREAS, Those deserving of special recognition for their
7 hard work and professionalism include DPS troopers from the North
8 Texas Region, the Southeast Texas Region, the South Texas Region,
9 the West Texas Region, the Northwest Texas Region, and the Central
10 Texas Region, all of whom assisted their colleagues in the Capitol
11 Region during this challenging time; additionally, profound thanks
12 is owed to Colonel Steven McCraw, the director of the Department of
13 Public Safety, Lieutenant Colonel Freeman Martin, Regional
14 Director David Cabrera of the Capitol Region, Major Gabe Ortiz of
15 the Capitol Region Criminal Investigations Division, Major
16 Christopher Jones, Captain Timothy Caradine, Captain Anthony
17 Rodriguez, and Security Operations Manager Kari Raesz for
18 coordinating and accommodating the additional personnel and
19 enhanced operations at the Capitol; and

20 WHEREAS, The steadfast commitment demonstrated by the DPS
21 personnel stationed at the Texas Capitol is in keeping with the
22 exceptional service rendered by all members of this elite law
23 enforcement agency, each of whom has earned the lasting gratitude
24 of the state's citizens; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
26 Legislature hereby commend the Texas Department of Public Safety
27 for its outstanding record of protecting the Capitol Complex in

H.R. No. 1044

1 Austin and extend to all those affiliated with the agency sincere
2 appreciation for their significant contributions; and, be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for the Texas Department of Public Safety as an expression
6 of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.