

By: Virdell

H.R. No. 22

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, First responders from across the nation made
2 extraordinary efforts to save lives and assist in recovery efforts
3 in the wake of the flash floods that devastated the Texas Hill
4 Country in July 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, In the early hours of the morning on July 4, heavy
6 rains pummeled the Texas Hill Country and flooded the Guadalupe
7 River, with one section in Hunt cresting at 37.5 feet; the raging
8 torrent engulfed parts of Kerr County before continuing downstream,
9 and devastating flooding also took place in other areas in Central
10 Texas; hundreds of people were swept away in the storm; more than
11 135 lives were lost as a result of the flooding, making the disaster
12 the sixth-deadliest freshwater flood in U.S. history; and

13 WHEREAS, Local and regional first responders quickly
14 mobilized to aid communities that were impacted by the storm; law
15 enforcement officers with the Kerr County Sheriff's Office, the
16 Kerrville Police Department, and other agencies throughout the area
17 bravely placed themselves in harm's way to conduct welfare checks
18 and respond to service calls in the flood zones; numerous
19 firefighters helped with search and rescue efforts, including Fire
20 Chief Michael Phillips of the Marble Falls Area Volunteer Fire
21 Department, who tragically lost his life during a rescue attempt on
22 July 5; moreover, numerous Bexar County Emergency Service Districts
23 deployed boats, drones, ambulances, and technical personnel, and
24 the San Antonio Fire Department sent water rescue teams, medical

1 personnel, and an ambulance bus to assist in the field; and

2 WHEREAS, To support the flood response, the Texas A&M
3 Engineering Extension Service formed two task forces with swift
4 water rescue boat squads, urban search and rescue specialists, and
5 specially trained cross-disciplinary teams; statewide rescue
6 operations also utilized boats, helicopters, vehicles, and trained
7 personnel provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the
8 Texas Department of Public Safety and Texas Highway Patrol, and the
9 Texas National Guard; and

10 WHEREAS, At the national level, the U.S. Coast Guard made
11 invaluable contributions to rescue efforts, with one of the
12 agency's swimmers, Scott Ruskan, helping to rescue approximately
13 165 people via helicopter deployments; the U.S. Department of
14 Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency
15 mobilized federal urban search and rescue assets as well as
16 logistical coordination, and the National Aeronautics and Space
17 Administration deployed aircraft through its Disaster Response
18 Coordination System; and

19 WHEREAS, A number of other states aided Texas by sending
20 vital resources such as search and rescue teams and K-9 units; among
21 the groups that provided interstate assistance were Colorado Task
22 Force 1, which sent 48 members, the Arkansas National Guard, which
23 sent 22 personnel, and the Louisiana Swift Water Rescue team, which
24 sent 14 specialists; help also came from Alabama, Arizona,
25 California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas,
26 Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey,
27 New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon,

1 South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin; in addition,
2 K-9 teams were provided by Fundación 911 in Acuña, Mexico, and an
3 urban search-and-rescue team from the Czech Republic; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 2,000 individuals joined the coalition of
5 volunteers to help with rescues, debris removal, supplies and food
6 distribution, and other forms of community assistance; officials
7 also directed volunteers to organizations such as the Salvation
8 Army, the American Red Cross, and local churches; and

9 WHEREAS, Texans are profoundly grateful for the selfless and
10 courageous individuals who went above and beyond to aid flood
11 victims, and all those who contributed to the relief effort are
12 deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
14 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby honor the first responders
15 who provided aid to those impacted by the Texas Hill Country floods
16 and extend to them sincere appreciation for their actions.