

By: Lopez of Cameron

H.R. No. 84

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Michael Kester is retiring as chief of the Harlingen
2 Police Department on February 4, 2025, drawing to a close an
3 exemplary tenure with the agency that has spanned 35 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Chief Kester began his law enforcement career with
5 the Harlingen Police Department in 1990, and he was promoted to
6 sergeant in 1993, to lieutenant in 2001, and to captain in 2003;
7 after serving as interim chief for six months in 2011, he was named
8 deputy chief in 2012, and three years later, he was appointed
9 assistant chief/chief of staff; and

10 WHEREAS, Since 2019, he has served as chief of police,
11 overseeing the entire department, which includes 144 sworn officers
12 and 53 civilian personnel; over the course of his distinguished
13 career, Chief Kester has spent more than 23 years in executive
14 leadership roles, and he has worked in nearly every division of the
15 department, including patrol, training, records, support services,
16 criminal investigations, and the city jail; and

17 WHEREAS, An alumnus of Unity College in Maine, Chief Kester
18 went on to graduate from the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement
19 Management Institute of Texas and the Leadership Command College at
20 Sam Houston State University, and in 2019 he completed the Texas
21 Certified Public Manager Program at The University of Texas Rio
22 Grande Valley; in all his endeavors, he has enjoyed the love and
23 support of his wife, Debora, and their 4 children and 11
24 grandchildren; and

1 WHEREAS, Chief Kester's dynamic leadership and commitment to
2 excellence have greatly benefited the citizens of Harlingen and
3 earned him the respect and admiration of his fellow officers, and he
4 may indeed reflect with pride on a career well spent as he embarks
5 on the next exciting chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
7 Legislature hereby congratulate Chief Michael Kester on his
8 retirement from the Harlingen Police Department and extend to him
9 sincere appreciation for his many years of dedicated service; and,
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for Chief Kester as an expression of high regard by the
13 Texas House of Representatives.