

House Resolution 849

By: Representative Hitchens of the 161st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Trooper First Class Mapes; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on the evening of November 30, 2024, Trooper First Class (TFC) Mapes and
3 his trainee, Trooper Cadet South, were patrolling Interstate 20 westbound in Rockdale
4 County; and
- 5 WHEREAS, they observed two vehicles traveling over 100 mph, matching each other's
6 speed, and clearly displaying signs of racing; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the vehicles immediately exited off the interstate onto Sigman Road; one
8 vehicle continued straight northbound, while the second vehicle quickly turned right into the
9 gas station; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the second vehicle came to a sudden stop, the driver and passenger doors
11 immediately flung open, and both occupants jumped out and fled on foot; and
- 12 WHEREAS, both TFC Mapes and Cadet South immediately sprung into action and gave
13 chase, with Cadet South pursuing the driver and TFC Mapes pursuing the passenger; and

14 WHEREAS, TFC Mapes began to close the distance, and at some point, the passenger
15 produced a handgun and began firing at him; and

16 WHEREAS, after being fired upon by the violator, without hesitation, with complete
17 disregard for his own life, and with only the safety of the general public in mind, TFC Mapes
18 began to engage the violent suspect with his service weapon; and

19 WHEREAS, in an act that could only be described as incredibly courageous and showing
20 immense intestinal fortitude, TFC Mapes continued to engage the suspect even after being
21 struck by gunfire himself; and

22 WHEREAS, in a split second, Trooper Cadet South made the decision to let the driver go
23 and, without any hesitation and with complete disregard for his own life and safety, ran
24 toward active gunfire to support and aid TFC Mapes; and

25 WHEREAS, the heroism displayed by these law enforcement professionals is nothing short
26 of extraordinary; and

27 WHEREAS, TFC Mapes' efficient and effective commitment to excellence has been
28 recognized through the many decorations and awards he has received, including the
29 International Association of Chiefs of Police South Region Trooper of the Year Award and
30 the Trooper of the Year for the United States; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that gratitude is expressed for the unique and
32 often unheralded contributions of local law enforcement professionals on behalf of the
33 citizens of this state.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body commend the care, courage, sympathy, and selfless dedication
36 exhibited by Trooper First Class Mapes in carrying out the difficult duties of his vocation and
37 express their utmost appreciation for having so purely and truly defined for others the
38 meaning of public servant.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
41 Trooper First Class Mapes.