

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 265

Recognizing and honoring the firefighters and other public servants who responded to the devastating outbreak of wildfires in southern California in October 2003.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 11, 2003

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring the firefighters and other public servants who responded to the devastating outbreak of wildfires in southern California in October 2003.

Whereas in late October 2003, southern California experienced multiple simultaneous devastating wildfires that destroyed thousands of homes, took many lives, and burned hundreds of thousands of acres of grasslands and forests, exceeding the devastation of any fires in the past century;

Whereas in the space of a few days, all of the resources of local firefighting companies were called on to man fire lines, first on 1 front and then on many fronts;

Whereas firefighters were thrown into extraordinarily dangerous situations because of the fast-moving, fuel- and wind-driven fires;

Whereas firefighters exhibited resilience and courage by continuing to stay on the lines, often in back-to-back shifts, while knowing, in some instances, that their own families were in danger or that their personal homes had been lost;

Whereas 1 firefighter, Steven Rucker, made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life;

Whereas the firefighters who were called initially were later assisted by skilled and courageous pilots, who flew water-drop flights in the most challenging wind and smoke conditions, and by firefighters from throughout the State of California and neighboring States;

Whereas additional emergency personnel, including law enforcement and medical personnel, have coordinated with local authorities and firefighters and have performed beyond the call of duty in the preservation and protection of human lives; and

Whereas members of the Armed Forces have once again met their country's call to duty, providing valuable firefighting assets and assistance to the emergency response efforts of California: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes and honors all of the firefighters
3 who responded to the devastating outbreak of
4 wildfires in southern California in October 2003;

5 (2) recognizes and honors all others, including
6 emergency, law enforcement, and medical personnel,

1 pilots, and members of the Armed Forces, for their
2 important contributions to controlling the wildfires
3 and keeping Californians safe; and

4 (3) commends the firefighters and other per-
5 sonnel for dedicated service to the people of Cali-
6 fornia.

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