

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 434

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the men and women who fought the year 2000 wildfires for their heroic efforts in protecting human lives and safety and limiting property losses.

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Whereas the 2000 wildfire season in the United States was the largest and most severe in the last 50 years and consisted of more than 85,000 wildfires;

Whereas almost 7,000,000 acres of public lands and adjacent State and private lands were subjected to these wildfires;

Whereas over 30,000 professional and volunteer firefighters participated in fighting and controlling these wildfires;

Whereas the Hotshot firefighting crews were instrumental in providing the expertise and training necessary to restrict the severity of these wildfires;

Whereas volunteer firefighters from across America and members of the Armed Forces played a crucial role in combating these wildfires and preventing them from destroying thousands of homes;

Whereas, in addition to the American firefighters, 1,800 men and women from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Mexico joined in the fight against these wildfires;

Whereas the information and coordination of the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, greatly assisted in minimizing the effects of these wildfires;

Whereas the support from local residents, communities, and counties helped maintain the high morale of the firefighters;

Whereas, in spite of the rugged terrain and the intense speed and size of the year 2000 wildfires, the firefighter crews managed to limit property losses to 852 structures; and

Whereas, if not for the hard work and dedication of these firefighters, the lives of thousands of Americans could have been lost, the loss of property could have been extensive, and the scenic beauty of the public lands and adjacent State and private lands could have been severely altered: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) commends the men and women, including
4 professional firefighters, volunteers, and military
5 personnel, who fought wildfires on public domain

1 lands during the 2000 wildfire season for their brav-
2 ery, their extraordinary efforts to contain the
3 wildfires, and their commitment to protect lives,
4 property, and the surrounding communities; and
5 (2) mourns the loss of life of the 16 persons
6 who died while defending the fire lines.

Passed the House of Representatives October 30,
2000.

Attest:

Clerk.