



HR1056

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Odin Firefighter
4 Christopher Pratt on receiving the Medal of Honor, the highest
5 award given to firefighters by the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, He was one of 4 firefighters to receive the award
7 on May 10, 2012, during the 19th annual Illinois Fallen
8 Firefighters Memorial and Firefighting Medal of Honors
9 Ceremony in Springfield; and

10 WHEREAS, He was presented the award for his actions last
11 December in the dramatic rescue of a 4-year-old boy from a
12 burning car; and

13 WHEREAS, Kerri Anne Hall was taking her son, Jace
14 Westbrook, to daycare when her 2005 Nissan Pathfinder skidded
15 on wet pavement, hit a culvert, went airborne, crashed into a
16 tree, and burst into flames; Christopher was on his way to work
17 as the manager of New Metal Fabricators in Centralia when he
18 drove up on the wreck; and

19 WHEREAS, He had no firefighting gear with him, but preceded
20 to break out a side window on the car and attempted to grab
21 young Jace; the buckle on the child restraint seat was melted

1 and would not release so he used a razor knife to cut the
2 safety belt and pulled the boy to safety; and

3 WHEREAS, The legs of the child's pajama bottoms were on
4 fire, so he patted out the flames and went back to rescue the
5 mother; unfortunately, the gas tank exploded, preventing her
6 rescue; Jace has since recovered from burns to 25% of his body;
7 Firefighter Pratt sustained second-degree burns to his hands
8 and lost a patch of hair from his head; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we congratulate Firefighter Christopher Pratt on receiving the
12 Medal of Honor, and thank him for his courage in saving a life;
13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Firefighter Christopher Pratt as a symbol of our
16 respect and esteem.