

By: Klick

H.R. No. 114

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, U.S. Army veterans Stephen Lucas, Larry Leonard, and
2 William Stevens rendered exceptional service to their country as
3 guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National
4 Cemetery in Virginia; and

5 WHEREAS, A hallowed site of national mourning and
6 remembrance, the tomb's marble monument has stood for more than a
7 century in tribute to all missing and unknown American soldiers,
8 and it is the final resting place for three service members from
9 World War I, World War II, and the Korean War; U.S. Army soldiers
10 were first assigned to guard the tomb in 1926, and since 1937, the
11 site has been protected around the clock every day of the year; and

12 WHEREAS, Stephen Lucas of Fort Worth, Larry Leonard of Haltom
13 City, and William "Bill" Stevens of Cedar Hill were sentinels at the
14 monument and are members of the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of
15 the Unknown Soldier; Mr. Lucas served at the site from September
16 1975 through February 1977; he was awarded the Tomb of the Unknown
17 Soldier Identification Badge, and on July 5, 1976, he was addressed
18 by the Queen of England, who was present for a wreath-laying
19 ceremony; he served for 22 years in the army, receiving the
20 Meritorious Service Medal, the Drill Sergeant Identification
21 Badge, and the National Defense Service Medal, and he retired as a
22 sergeant first class; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Leonard served as a tomb guard from June 1975
24 through June 1979 and was awarded the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1 Identification Badge; he was a specialist with the 3rd U.S.
2 Infantry Regiment from 1975 to 1980, and his military honors
3 include the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service
4 Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Award; and

5 WHEREAS, From December 1967 through October 1968,
6 Mr. Stevens was a tomb guard relief commander; he earned the Tomb
7 Guard Badge and was assigned as a special guard to the gravesite of
8 President John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery and as a
9 special escort for Jacqueline Kennedy at Robert Kennedy's funeral
10 procession to the cemetery in 1968; an army specialist from 1966 to
11 1968, he received the Old Guard Certificate of Achievement, the
12 National Defense Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal; and

13 WHEREAS, Demonstrating the highest levels of discipline,
14 stamina, and patriotism during their vigils at the Tomb of the
15 Unknown Soldier, Stephen Lucas, Larry Leonard, and Bill Stevens
16 honored the service and sacrifice of fallen U.S. soldiers, and they
17 are indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
19 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Stephen Lucas,
20 Larry Leonard, and William Stevens for their contributions as
21 guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and extend to them sincere
22 appreciation for their distinguished service; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Mr. Lucas, Mr. Leonard, and Mr. Stevens as an
25 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.