

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the United States Army and citizens across the nation in recognizing 13 members of the 507th Maintenance Company and the 76th Military Police Battalion of Fort Bliss for their bravery and heroism during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, The 227th birthday of the founding of this great country was selected as the special occasion for the Army at Fort Bliss to honor 13 soldiers for their exemplary service; the 507th Maintenance Company suffered some of the heaviest losses of any unit in Iraq, with nine soldiers killed, six taken prisoner, and four wounded; and

WHEREAS, Nine members of the maintenance company and four members of the 76th Military Police Battalion received some of the nation's most prestigious awards for their actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom during the annual Fourth of July celebration at Fort Bliss; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Patrick Miller of Wichita, Kansas, received the Silver Star Medal, the nation's fourth-highest award for bravery, the Purple Heart, and the Prisoner of War Medal; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Shoshana Johnson of El Paso, who was shot in the ankle, received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Prisoner of War Medal; Specialist Edgar Hernandez of Mission also received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Prisoner of War Medal; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Matthew Rose of Salem, Oregon, received the Bronze Star with Valor Device, and Sergeant James Riley of Pennsauken, New Jersey, received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Prisoner of War Medal; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Curtis Campbell of Brooklyn, New York, received the Bronze Star; Specialist Joseph Hudson of Alamogordo, New Mexico, received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Prisoner of War Medal; and

WHEREAS, Specialist James Grubb of Manchester, Kentucky, received the Bronze Star, and Corporal Francis Carista of Rahway, New Jersey, received the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, Two soldiers from the 76th Military Police Battalion came under fire and received wounds on June 4, 2003, while on a routine patrol mission in support of the 4th Infantry Division north of Baghdad; Private First Class Candice May of Winter Haven, Florida, and Specialist Alan Raymond Hill of Dunseith, North Dakota, received Purple Heart Medals; and

WHEREAS, The following day, Private First Class Jeremy Bristol of McKinney and Specialist Pedro Rodriguez of El Paso, also of the 76th Battalion, received shrapnel wounds defending a water plant in Balad, Iraq; both soldiers received the Purple Heart Medal; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas is grateful to these brave soldiers who risked their lives in support of their country's mission and the cause of freedom; the courage and heroism they demonstrated in facing the challenges of Operation Iraqi Freedom have brought honor to themselves, their families, and their country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend these members of the 507th Maintenance Company and the 76th Military Police Battalion for their service to their country during Operation Iraqi Freedom and extend to them best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Shapleigh

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on July 14, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate