

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 16

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, General (Ret.) Tommy Ray Franks, who oversaw
2 American operations in Afghanistan and Iraq as leader of the U.S.
3 Central Command (CentCom), is appearing with Neal McCoy & Friends
4 at a benefit for the East Texas Angel Network (ETAN) in Longview on
5 September 27, 2003; and

6 WHEREAS, A charitable foundation, ETAN was created by country
7 music star Neal McCoy and his wife, Melinda, in 1995 to provide
8 financial assistance to the families of children with serious
9 illnesses; to date, ETAN has raised approximately \$2 million and
10 helped more than 100 families; and

11 WHEREAS, General Franks has been a great fan and close friend
12 of Mr. McCoy's since getting to know him during the performer's
13 travels with various USO tours; at the general's request, Mr. McCoy
14 performed at the July 2003 ceremony marking the transfer of CentCom
15 leadership from General Franks to General John P. Abizaid; and

16 WHEREAS, A native of Oklahoma, General Franks grew up in
17 Midland and attended the same high school as First Lady Laura Bush;
18 he was commissioned as an army second lieutenant in 1967 and was
19 soon posted to Vietnam, where he earned three Purple Hearts; during
20 his 36-year military career, he also served at the Pentagon, in
21 Europe, in Korea, and in Iraq during the first Persian Gulf war; and

22 WHEREAS, Assuming command of CentCom in the summer of 2000,
23 General Franks became responsible for U.S. military operations in
24 25 countries, stretching from the Horn of Africa to Central Asia; he

1 subsequently directed American forces in the campaigns that
2 overthrew the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein in Iraq;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Among the numerous commendations bestowed on
5 General Franks have been four Legion of Merit medals, three Bronze
6 Stars with "V" for valor, an Air Medal with "V," and an Army
7 Commendation Medal with "V"; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout a career distinguished by sound judgment
9 and exemplary leadership, General Franks has set the highest
10 standards of excellence in the performance of his duties, and it is
11 a pleasure to welcome him back to the Lone Star State as he takes
12 part in this outstanding benefit; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,
14 3rd Called Session, hereby honor General (Ret.) Tommy Ray Franks on
15 the occasion of his appearance at the Ninth Annual Benefit for the
16 East Texas Angel Network and extend to him profound gratitude for
17 his exceptional service to this country; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for General Franks as an expression of high regard by the
20 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.