

By: Noriega, Alonzo

H.C.R. No. 156

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Defense
2 there are more than 37,000 legal, permanent residents serving on
3 active duty in our armed forces; tragically, the military
4 hostilities in Iraq have already claimed the lives of six of these
5 noncitizen soldiers; and

6 WHEREAS, It is a remarkable display of loyalty to the ideals
7 of a democracy and freedom that these brave young men and women
8 defend our country against aggression overseas despite not being
9 recognized as U.S. citizens and not being able to share in the full
10 rights and privileges enjoyed by our fellow Americans; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has the opportunity to
12 help these brave residents and the surviving spouses and children
13 of those killed in action to gain U.S. citizenship and benefits by
14 enacting House Bill H.R. 1685 and House Bill H.R. 1275, the
15 Citizenship For America's Troops Act; and

16 WHEREAS, House Bill H.R. 1685 makes the surviving spouse and
17 children of a person who has been granted posthumous citizenship
18 through death while on active-duty service during times of military
19 hostility eligible for immigration status and benefits; and

20 WHEREAS, The Citizenship For America's Troops Act reduces
21 from three years to two years the amount of military service
22 required for legal, permanent residents to qualify for U.S.
23 citizenship, and exempts them from paying all of the fees required
24 by the naturalization application process; and

1 WHEREAS, The Citizenship For America's Troops Act also allows
2 the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to conduct
3 citizenship interviews and oath ceremonies for military personnel
4 at embassies, consulates, and overseas military installations
5 rather than requiring such interviews and ceremonies to take place
6 within the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, On July 3, 2002, President Bush signed an executive
8 order to provide expedited naturalization for aliens and noncitizen
9 nationals serving honorably on active-duty status in the Armed
10 Forces of the United States during the war on terrorism; and

11 WHEREAS, The executive order designated September 11, 2001,
12 as the first day of a period of time in which exceptions from the
13 usual requirements for naturalization were initiated; and

14 WHEREAS, Given that this period of time has not been closed or
15 terminated by a related executive order, the congress should take
16 this window of opportunity to honor the desires of the legal,
17 permanent noncitizens who, in fighting global terrorism on our
18 behalf, have demonstrated a willingness to die for a country they
19 cannot yet fully claim as their own; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
21 hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to
22 enact House Bill H.R. 1685, relating to providing immigration
23 status and benefits for surviving spouses and children, and House
24 Bill H.R. 1275, the Citizenship For America's Troops Act; and, be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
27 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to

H.C.R. No. 156

1 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
2 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
3 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
4 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
5 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.