

By: Noriega

H.C.R. No. 156

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 who are or may soon be entering combat in the Persian
4 Gulf; and

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

10 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has the opportunity to
11 help these brave residents gain U.S. citizenship by enacting House
12 Bill H.R. 1275, the Citizenship For America's Troops Act; and

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

18 WHEREAS, The Citizenship For America's Troops Act also allows
19 the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to conduct
20 citizenship interviews and oath ceremonies for military personnel
21 at embassies, consulates, and overseas military installations
22 rather than requiring such interviews and ceremonies to take place
23 within the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, On July 3, 2002, President Bush signed an executive

1 order to provide expedited naturalization for aliens and noncitizen
2 nationals serving honorably on active-duty status in the Armed
3 Forces of the United States during the war on terrorism; and

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

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

13 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to
15 enact House Bill H.R. 1275, the Citizenship For America's Troops
16 Act; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
18 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
19 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
20 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
21 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
22 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
23 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.