

1-1 By: Noriega, Alonzo (Senate Sponsor-Van de Putte) H.C.R. No. 156
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 7, 2003;
1-3 May 9, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran
1-4 Affairs and Military Installations; May 22, 2003, reported
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 22, 2003, sent
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Defense
1-9 there are more than 37,000 legal, permanent residents serving on
1-10 active duty in our armed forces; tragically, the military
1-11 hostilities in Iraq have already claimed the lives of six of these
1-12 noncitizen soldiers; and

1-13 WHEREAS, It is a remarkable display of loyalty to the ideals
1-14 of a democracy and freedom that these brave young men and women
1-15 defend our country against aggression overseas despite not being
1-16 recognized as U.S. citizens and not being able to share in the full
1-17 rights and privileges enjoyed by our fellow Americans; and

1-18 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has the opportunity to
1-19 help these brave residents and the surviving spouses and children
1-20 of those killed in action to gain U.S. citizenship and benefits by
1-21 enacting House Bill H.R. 1685 and House Bill H.R. 1275, the
1-22 Citizenship For America's Troops Act; and

1-23 WHEREAS, House Bill H.R. 1685 makes the surviving spouse and
1-24 children of a person who has been granted posthumous citizenship
1-25 through death while on active-duty service during times of military
1-26 hostility eligible for immigration status and benefits; and

1-27 WHEREAS, The Citizenship For America's Troops Act reduces
1-28 from three years to two years the amount of military service
1-29 required for legal, permanent residents to qualify for U.S.
1-30 citizenship, and exempts them from paying all of the fees required
1-31 by the naturalization application process; and

1-32 WHEREAS, The Citizenship For America's Troops Act also allows
1-33 the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to conduct
1-34 citizenship interviews and oath ceremonies for military personnel
1-35 at embassies, consulates, and overseas military installations
1-36 rather than requiring such interviews and ceremonies to take place
1-37 within the United States; and

1-38 WHEREAS, On July 3, 2002, President Bush signed an executive
1-39 order to provide expedited naturalization for aliens and noncitizen
1-40 nationals serving honorably on active-duty status in the Armed
1-41 Forces of the United States during the war on terrorism; and

1-42 WHEREAS, The executive order designated September 11, 2001,
1-43 as the first day of a period of time in which exceptions from the
1-44 usual requirements for naturalization were initiated; and

1-45 WHEREAS, Given that this period of time has not been closed or
1-46 terminated by a related executive order, the congress should take
1-47 this window of opportunity to honor the desires of the legal,
1-48 permanent noncitizens who, in fighting global terrorism on our
1-49 behalf, have demonstrated a willingness to die for a country they
1-50 cannot yet fully claim as their own; now, therefore, be it

1-51 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-52 hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to
1-53 enact House Bill H.R. 1685, relating to providing immigration
1-54 status and benefits for surviving spouses and children, and House
1-55 Bill H.R. 1275, the Citizenship For America's Troops Act; and, be it
1-56 further

1-57 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-58 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
1-59 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
1-60 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
1-61 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
1-62 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
1-63 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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