

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, This Memorial Day, the Texas Legislature and  
2 citizens across America pause to honor those whose patriotism  
3 called them to active duty in our nation's armed forces, and we also  
4 join in solemn remembrance of those Texans who have been killed  
5 during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

6           WHEREAS, The date we now know as Memorial Day was first  
7 observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed with reverence on  
8 the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers; exactly one century  
9 later, the United States Congress declared the last Monday in May to  
10 be Memorial Day; and

11           WHEREAS, Throughout our nation's history, Texas servicemen  
12 and servicewomen have distinguished themselves as individuals of  
13 remarkable courage, dedication, and determination; today we are  
14 proud to honor the men and women from our state, as well as those  
15 posted to military bases within our state, who have left behind  
16 their loved ones and the comfort and security of their homes to heed  
17 our country's call to arms; during the Iraqi campaign, the members  
18 of the 78th Legislature have felt deep sorrow as a number of our  
19 fellow Texans have laid down their lives during the course of  
20 serving our country; and

21           WHEREAS, To date the United States Department of Defense has  
22 confirmed the deaths of more than 140 American soldiers and airmen  
23 who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, including at least two dozen  
24 individuals with immediate ties to Texas; and

1           WHEREAS, Our state and our nation are fortunate to have men  
2 and women whose love of their country leads them to military  
3 service, yet the death of these heroic Texans is a sobering reminder  
4 that armed conflict is not without great and terrible cost; their  
5 deaths represent a tremendous loss to their families, friends,  
6 fellow soldiers, and the State of Texas, and their sacrifice in the  
7 meritorious service of our nation will not soon be forgotten; now,  
8 therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
10 hereby pay special tribute to the memory of those Texans who died  
11 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and those who came before  
12 them for their steadfast devotion to securing those freedoms all  
13 Americans hold dear; and, be it further

14           RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature also express its  
15 heartfelt appreciation to all the brave men and women who have  
16 served, and who currently serve, in the United States armed forces.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 261 was adopted by the House on May 23, 2003, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 261 was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor