

By: Castro

H.R. No. 1202

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Korean War veterans Ray Benke, Oscar Cortez, and
2 Jose Hinojosa of San Antonio were among those American military
3 personnel honored on March 8, 2003, at the Korean War Commemoration
4 Committee event; and

5 WHEREAS, For their wartime service and dedication to their
6 country, these patriotic Americans received the Freedom Medal from
7 the Republic of Korea and the Korean War Commendation Medal from the
8 United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Stationed in Japan and Korea, Ray Benke served in
10 the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1952; now retired, he has enjoyed the
11 love and support of his wife for 49 years, and their special union
12 has been blessed with two daughters and one son as well as three
13 granddaughters; and

14 WHEREAS, In the U.S. Army for 20 years, Oscar Cortez served in
15 the Korean War and the Vietnam War; in Korea, he was captured in
16 1951 and held as a prisoner of war until his release on August 26,
17 1953; he married his childhood sweetheart, and they now have five
18 sons and one daughter as well as 16 grandchildren; and

19 WHEREAS, The military service of Jose Hinojosa spanned 23
20 years and included assignments in Georgia, Louisiana, Alaska,
21 California, Germany, Korea, and Vietnam; on July 25, 1951, Mr.
22 Hinojosa was captured in Korea and held as a prisoner of war until
23 his release on August 20, 1953; this decorated war veteran has
24 shared an enduring union with his wife for 38 years; and

1 WHEREAS, More than 50,000 Americans, some 1.3 million South
2 Koreans, 1 million Chinese, and half a million North Koreans died
3 during a war that devastated the Korean peninsula; and

4 WHEREAS, Today the Republic of Korea has been rebuilt as a
5 center of commerce in Asia, with a strong, export-oriented economy,
6 and a debt of gratitude is owed to those individuals who risked
7 their lives in answer to our nation's call; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate Ray Benke, Oscar Cortez, and Jose
10 Hinojosa on their receipt of the Freedom Medal and the Korean War
11 Commendation Medal and commend them for their service to their
12 country and the cause of freedom; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for these gentlemen as an expression of high regard by the
15 Texas House of Representatives.