

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 1277

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens across this state and nation are profoundly  
2 thankful for the safe recovery of U.S. Army Sergeant James J. Riley  
3 of Pennsauken, New Jersey, who was taken prisoner during the Iraqi  
4 campaign and held for three harrowing weeks; and

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant Riley was among a group of soldiers from  
6 the 507th Maintenance Company that was ambushed in southern Iraq on  
7 March 23, 2003; he and four other survivors of the attack were held  
8 in solitary confinement in Baghdad for 12 to 15 days before being  
9 moved to a series of other locations; they were rescued on April 13,  
10 2003, by Marines with the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance  
11 Battalion who were advancing toward Tikrit; and

12 WHEREAS, This courageous, 13-year veteran was born in New  
13 Zealand and moved with his family to New Jersey when he was 10;  
14 interested in a military career from the time he was a boy, he  
15 joined the service after graduating from Pennsauken High School and  
16 has served his nation with integrity and devotion; his assignments  
17 have included two tours of duty in Korea and one in Saudi Arabia;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, On returning home from his ordeal in the Iraqi war,  
20 Sergeant Riley was honored with a parade in Pennsauken and an  
21 evening ceremony that drew thousands of well-wishers; among those  
22 who took the stage to formally pay tribute to him and to all of those  
23 serving in the armed forces were New Jersey's two U.S. senators and  
24 Governor James E. McGreevey, who presented Sergeant Riley with the

1 New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal; and

2 WHEREAS, The sacrifices made by Sergeant Riley and his fellow  
3 soldiers have earned the heartfelt gratitude of all Americans, who  
4 now join his family, his friends, and the members of this body in  
5 celebrating his safe deliverance from captivity; now, therefore, be  
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
8 Legislature hereby honor Sergeant James J. Riley of the United  
9 States Army on the joyful occasion of his return from Iraq and  
10 extend to him deep appreciation for his brave and steadfast service  
11 in this nation's behalf; and, be it further

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