

By: Chisum

H.R. No. 1406

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Silver Star Medal is awarded by the United  
2 States of America to soldiers who have demonstrated gallantry in  
3 action while engaged in military operations, involving an  
4 accomplishment that has been performed with exceptional and truly  
5 remarkable bravery; this military decoration is reserved for the  
6 most elite men and women in uniform, and today the members of this  
7 chamber join in remembrance of one such Silver Star recipient,  
8 Captain Russell W. Condon, whose family has traveled here to the  
9 State Capitol on the 38th anniversary of his death; and

10           WHEREAS, Born on January 8, 1932, Captain Condon was a native  
11 of Humble and a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he served  
12 with distinction as a member of the Corps of Cadets; he joined the  
13 United States Army at the height of the Cold War, quickly earning  
14 the respect of his fellow soldiers and commanding officers; in  
15 addition to receiving letters of commendation for his service to  
16 the U.S. armed forces in Germany, he was presented with a special  
17 letter from President Lyndon B. Johnson that honored his  
18 meritorious service to the United States; and

19           WHEREAS, In the early 1960s, when his nation issued a call to  
20 arms to serve in Southeast Asia, Captain Condon left behind his  
21 family and friends to bring his much-needed expertise and  
22 leadership skills to the Vietnam front; on May 22, 1965, this  
23 exemplary serviceman had been assigned to serve as an advisor to the  
24 2d Battalion, 48th Infantry Regiment of the Army of the Republic of

1 Vietnam, when his unit was ambushed by Viet Cong forces; caught in a  
2 devastating firefight, Captain Condon led his unit in a  
3 counterattack and, overwhelmed by fierce resistance, directed an  
4 air strike into the strongholds of the hostile forces; and

5 WHEREAS, Despite overwhelming odds, Captain Condon  
6 courageously placed himself in a strategically indefensible  
7 position to draw enemy fire away from the main group of withdrawing  
8 friendly troops; he was killed in this battle, giving his own life  
9 to save others; a few weeks after his death, the U.S. Military  
10 Assistance Command in Vietnam posthumously issued to this  
11 courageous soldier the award of the Silver Star, echoing the words  
12 of his surviving colleagues in declaring his gallantry in combat to  
13 be in keeping with the very highest traditions of the U.S. Army; and

14 WHEREAS, Left to mourn the loss of this 33-year-old officer  
15 was his beloved wife, the former Patricia Brown, whom he married in  
16 1954, as well as the couple's four wonderful young children,  
17 Cheryl, Deborah, Cynthia, and Ralph; although many years have  
18 elapsed since that time, he is still remembered as a devoted husband  
19 and father, as an outstanding soldier, as a man with a quick, dry  
20 wit, and as a Texan of boundless strength, valor, and commitment;  
21 now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Captain  
24 Russell W. Condon and, as we reflect on the accomplishments of this  
25 true Texas hero, also extend warmest best wishes to his family: to  
26 his wife, Patricia Condon of Round Rock; and to his daughters,  
27 Cheryl Ann McVay of Round Rock, Deborah Sue Davidson of Bellevue,

1 Washington, and Cynthia Lynn Morpew of Austin; and, be it further  
2           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Captain  
5 Russell W. Condon of Humble.