

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 1441

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded by the
2 United States of America to members of the armed forces who have
3 demonstrated heroism or extraordinary achievement while
4 participating in an aerial flight, involving an accomplishment so
5 exceptional and so outstanding as to clearly set the individual
6 apart from others operating in similar circumstances; this military
7 decoration is reserved for only the most elite men and women in
8 uniform, and the Lone Star State is privileged to be the home state
9 of one such recipient of the medal, Captain Nathan Howard of the
10 United States Air Force; and

11 WHEREAS, Captain Howard, a member of the 1991 class of Round
12 Rock High School and a graduate of Texas A&M University, is the son
13 of Lois Howard and retired Air Force pilot Lieutenant Colonel J.
14 Robert Howard; on the night of April 7, 2003, over the skies of
15 northern Iraq, he piloted his KC-135 tanker deep into enemy
16 territory to refuel fighter planes that were conducting, with
17 critically low fuel supplies, a combat search-and-rescue mission
18 (CSAR) for a downed F-15; even when not performed under such dire
19 combat conditions, the act of mid-air refueling is considered
20 exceptionally dangerous, and it was only the skill and bravery of
21 Captain Howard and his fellow crew members that enabled the fighter
22 planes to return to base unscathed; and

23 WHEREAS, This remarkable record of military valor has earned
24 Captain Howard the eternal and profound gratitude of his fellow

1 Americans, and it is a distinct honor to pay tribute to a man of such
2 singular courage and conviction; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
4 Legislature hereby commend Round Rock native Captain Nathan Howard,
5 recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, for his exemplary
6 achievements in the meritorious service of his country; and, be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Captain Howard as an expression of high regard by the
10 Texas House of Representatives.