

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 762**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is proud to pay tribute to the members of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, for their sacrifices and contributions to the Allied forces during the Italian campaign of World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, Company E was composed primarily of Hispanic-American soldiers from El Paso and the surrounding area; on January 21, 1944, they performed heroically during a diversionary assault in the Cassino Valley in Italy that was planned to prevent the Germans from attacking the main Allied invasion forces landing at Anzio; more than half the members of Company E, and more than 1,700 men in the division, were killed during the battle; and

**WHEREAS**, Manuel "Manny" Rivera, Jr., in the weapons platoon of Company E, was involved in one of two reconnaissance patrols organized prior to the assault; a mortar shell exploded near him as the reconnaissance patrol crossed the Rapido River, wounding many in the patrol; although seriously wounded, Manny came to the aid of his fellow soldiers and also swam back to the American side of the river to inform his company commander of the mission's failure; for his heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and other medals; and

**WHEREAS**, Ricardo Palacios, Jr., was a rifle platoon sergeant for Company E who participated in the Rapido River assault; like many others in the company, he was captured by the Germans and was held as a prisoner of war for 16 months; and

**WHEREAS**, Following the Rapido River assault, Company E regrouped and fought in the Cassino area and at Anzio; along with others in the 36th Infantry Division, the company fought on until it helped liberate Rome from the Germans; after leaving Italy, the soldiers of the 36th Infantry Division landed in Southern France to take pressure off the soldiers involved in the Normandy landings; and

**WHEREAS**, The soldiers of Company E were patriotic Americans who fought with true courage and tenacity, and those who died and those who survived deserve to be honored as heroes of our state and nation; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend the members of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, for the great sacrifices and heroism they displayed in the service of their country; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for these exceptional Americans as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Shapleigh

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 6, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate