

By: Isett

H.R. No. 145

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), a unit of
2 the 36th Medical Evacuation Battalion, based at Fort Hood,
3 continues to render heroic support to American military forces in
4 Iraq; and

5 WHEREAS, Deployed to Kuwait in January 2003, the 507th
6 crossed into Iraq on March 19 in support of the 3rd Infantry
7 Division, and one of its helicopters became the first Coalition
8 aircraft to land in Baghdad; before its initial tour in the war zone
9 ended in June 2003, the company evacuated 463 casualties while
10 logging more than 1,000 hours in flight; for its exceptional
11 bravery, the company was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation,
12 and many members of the company received Air Medals with Valor; and

13 WHEREAS, The 507th returned to Iraq for a second tour of duty
14 on February 17, 2004; on this occasion it was given responsibility
15 for medical evacuations in Al Anbar Province, the most dangerous
16 area in Iraq for Coalition forces; attached to Marine Aircraft
17 Group 16, 3rd Marine Air Wing, the unit flew missions out of Al Asad
18 and other forward operating locations in support of the 1st Marine
19 Expeditionary Force; and

20 WHEREAS, Working continuously for more than a year, the 507th
21 evacuated nearly 1,800 casualties and flew 3,700 hours during its
22 second tour; its crews airlifted Marines wounded in operations on
23 the Syrian, Saudi Arabian, and Jordanian borders and in the April
24 and November 2004 operations in Fallujah; awards conferred on unit

1 members included two Soldier's Medals, numerous Air Medals, and the
2 Dustoff Association Crew Member of the Year; and

3 WHEREAS, Among the troops, the 507th is known familiarly as
4 the Lonestar Dustoff, "Dustoff" being the military's standard call
5 signal for medical evacuation; adopted during the Vietnam War, the
6 word conjures up the swirling of dirt on the ground whenever a
7 helicopter lands or lifts off; since its adoption, Dustoff has been
8 turned into an acronym for Dedicated Unhesitating Service to Our
9 Fighting Forces; and

10 WHEREAS, From the time that a call comes in for a medical
11 evacuation helicopter, the 507th aims to have a crew airborne in
12 seven to 10 minutes; the swiftness of its response and the skill of
13 its medical personnel have combined to save the lives of countless
14 American soldiers and Marines; dedicated to preserving human life
15 regardless of nationality or combatant status, the 507th has also
16 evacuated Iraqi civilians and fallen insurgents; and

17 WHEREAS, The hazardous nature of the 507th's mission is
18 suggested by the unofficial MEDEVAC motto, "Unarmed and Unafraid";
19 while members of the MEDEVAC crews are equipped with small arms,
20 their helicopters carry no weapons, and in spite of the large red
21 crosses painted on the aircraft, they are frequently targeted by
22 hostile fire; during its second deployment, crews of the 507th were
23 sometimes escorted by Marine Cobra helicopters, but oftentimes they
24 flew alone; and

25 WHEREAS, The 507th is preparing to ship out to Iraq for yet a
26 third time in October 2005; on completion of that tour, the company
27 will have spent 30 of the last 46 months in Iraq; and

1 WHEREAS, Through their courage, professionalism, and
2 unfaltering commitment to duty, the members of the 507th Medical
3 Company exemplify the highest standards of the U.S. armed forces,
4 and their fellow citizens owe these men and women an immeasurable
5 debt of gratitude; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
7 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby honor the members of the
8 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) for their consummate ability
9 and extraordinary valor in the service of their country; and, be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the 507th Medical Company as an expression of high
13 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.