

By: Solomons

H.C.R. No. 74

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The 56th Brigade Combat Team of the 36th Infantry
2 Division, Texas National Guard, deployed to Iraq in early January
3 2005, for a tour of duty that will extend for at least a year; and

4 WHEREAS, Members of the Thunderbolt Brigade come from units
5 based in more than 20 cities across North and West Texas; at 3,000
6 strong, the brigade is the largest force of Texas troops to be
7 deployed overseas since World War II; and

8 WHEREAS, While in Iraq, members of the brigade will perform
9 both offensive and defensive duties, including escorting convoys
10 and guarding American work sites; their area of operation covers a
11 300-mile-long swath of territory stretching from the south-central
12 part of the country to the north; and

13 WHEREAS, Mobilized in August 2004, the brigade subsequently
14 underwent intensive training both at Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort
15 Polk, Louisiana; before boarding planes for the Middle East,
16 brigade members were given an emotional send-off by a tremendous
17 throng of family members and friends at a New Year's Day rally, held
18 at the Baylor University football stadium; and

19 WHEREAS, Our state and nation are fortunate to have sons and
20 daughters whose love of country leads them to service in the
21 National Guard, yet we are keenly aware of the disruption that
22 long-term mobilization causes in their lives and of the great
23 challenges they are being asked to meet; the professionalism and
24 devotion to duty exhibited by these courageous men and women are

1 deserving of every American's utmost respect and gratitude; and

2 WHEREAS, Citizens of Texas are united in their profound
3 appreciation for the selflessness, dedication, and valor
4 demonstrated by these members of the armed forces and in their
5 fervent hope for a successful conclusion to their mission and their
6 safe return home; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
8 hereby honor the members of the 56th Brigade Combat Team, 36th
9 Infantry Division, Texas National Guard, for their stalwart service
10 in Iraq and ask that during the arduous days ahead, they be kept in
11 the thoughts and hearts of all Texans.