

By: Corte

H.C.R. No. 112

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established
2 by the 58th Texas Legislature to recognize gallant and intrepid
3 service by a member of the state military forces, and through his
4 courageous actions during battle in World War II, Captain Robert
5 Thomas Edlin has proven himself worthy of receiving this
6 prestigious honor; and

7 WHEREAS, A native of Evansville, Indiana, Captain Edlin was
8 born on May 6, 1922, into a large, close-knit family that embraced
9 the highest of American values and ideals; and

10 WHEREAS, Captain Edlin joined the Indiana National Guard at
11 the age of 17 in 1939, the year before the first peacetime draft in
12 the nation's history was instituted; he was promoted to staff
13 sergeant in April 1941, to second lieutenant in September 1942, and
14 to first lieutenant in May 1943; after volunteering for the Rangers
15 in December 1943, Lieutenant Edlin was made a platoon leader in
16 Company A, Second Ranger Battalion; and

17 WHEREAS, On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Lieutenant Edlin helped to
18 lead Company A onto Omaha Beach, receiving debilitating wounds in
19 both legs; evacuated to England the following day, he rejoined his
20 platoon in France on July 15, 1944; and

21 WHEREAS, During the late summer of 1944, the Second Ranger
22 Battalion was assigned to support the American advance in Brittany;
23 on September 9, preceding a dawn attack on the antiaircraft Graf
24 Spee, or Lochrist, battery near the French city of Brest,

1 Lieutenant Edlin was ordered to lead a four-man reconnaissance
2 patrol to spot enemy pillboxes and snipers and chart a way through
3 the minefield surrounding the garrison, the capture of which was
4 critical in the effort to retake the port city; and

5 WHEREAS, The patrol navigated a large minefield and
6 encountered a German pillbox, where Lieutenant Edlin captured the
7 officer in charge; Lieutenant Edlin then forced the officer to
8 escort him and his interpreter to the commanding officer of the Graf
9 Spee battery; and

10 WHEREAS, On entering the commander's office, Lieutenant
11 Edlin took a grenade, pulled the pin, and held the grenade to the
12 commander's stomach, forcing him to surrender the fort, along with
13 four 280-mm guns, supporting small-arms positions, pillboxes, and
14 approximately 800 enemy soldiers; and

15 WHEREAS, Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel James Earl
16 Rudder, commander of the Second Ranger Battalion, to receive the
17 Medal of Honor, Lieutenant Edlin refused to accept the medal in
18 order to avoid being reassigned to a unit within the continental
19 United States; and

20 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Edlin was awarded the Distinguished
21 Service Cross for his extraordinary heroism in battle, and in 1995
22 he was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame; a book recounting his
23 remarkable military service was published in 2002; and

24 WHEREAS, This exceptional officer returned to Indiana after
25 the war and served in the Indiana National Guard from 1948 to 1954,
26 holding the rank of captain; in 1963, acting on the recommendation
27 of his former commanding officer, James Rudder, who was then

1 president of Texas A&M University, Captain Edlin moved to Corpus
2 Christi; over the years, he has continued to serve his fellow
3 citizens through his membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and
4 the Eagles Lodge, as well as through the operation of a successful
5 family business known as the Edlin Auction House; and

6 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor is the highest
7 commendation Texans can bestow for military service, and the
8 outstanding valor and patriotism manifested by Captain Robert Edlin
9 most assuredly merit the award of this state's supreme military
10 distinction; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
12 hereby award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Captain Robert
13 Thomas Edlin in recognition of his heroic service and express to him
14 deepest appreciation on behalf of all his fellow Texans; and, be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby respectfully
17 request the Honorable Rick Perry, governor of the State of Texas, to
18 confer the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor on Captain Edlin; and,
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Captain Edlin as an expression of highest regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.