

By: Callegari

H.R. No. 1074

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, From 1945 to 1991, the world witnessed a military,
2 economic, and ideological confrontation known as the Cold War;
3 waged most prominently by the United States and the Soviet Union,
4 the struggle involved almost every nation on earth to some degree
5 and had a profound impact on the course of world history over the
6 latter half of the 20th century; and

7 WHEREAS, Although the Cold War never erupted into a
8 full-scale armed conflict between the world's superpowers, it gave
9 impetus to a number of localized hot wars, as well as to a massive,
10 long-term arms race; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout the Cold War, the State of Texas played a
12 significant role in this country's military preparedness,
13 contributing personnel to the armed forces, serving as the site of
14 important military facilities, and providing material support by
15 way of private industry; and

16 WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of Texans served in the military
17 during the course of the Cold War, and many made the ultimate
18 sacrifice; Texan losses in Korea, from 1950 to 1957, numbered
19 1,719, and in Vietnam, 3,415; and

20 WHEREAS, The state currently has 16 military installations
21 that figured notably in the country's defense system during the
22 period of the Cold War; moreover, Texas was home to Nike and Atlas
23 Ballistic Missile silos, as well as to Strategic Air Command units
24 at Biggs, Carswell, Sheppard, Dyess, Amarillo, and Bergstrom Air

1 Force Bases; other air force bases located in the state during that
2 time included Brooks, Goodfellow, Kelly, Lackland, Laredo,
3 Laughlin, Randolph, Reese, and Webb; and

4 WHEREAS, All 15 of those air force facilities constituted
5 first-strike targets for the Soviet military; secondary targets in
6 Texas included Beeville, Corpus Christi, Kingsville,
7 Sherman-Denison, Texarkana, Fort Bliss, Fort Hood, and the Houston
8 petrochemical complex; and

9 WHEREAS, Many industrial enterprises in Texas made vital
10 contributions during the Cold War years; the state's oil industry
11 had a major role in supplying the Strategic Petroleum Reserve,
12 while a number of key defense contractors were either based in Texas
13 or had large Texas operations; among such companies were Texas
14 Instruments, Lockheed, EDS, Bell Helicopter, and Textron; and

15 WHEREAS, One dimension of the Cold War involved a race for
16 leadership in space exploration; crucial to American efforts in
17 this arena was the Johnson Space Center in Houston, the NASA
18 headquarters for manned spaceflight; and

19 WHEREAS, Eight successive American presidents grappled with
20 the challenges of the Cold War; two of these--Dwight D. Eisenhower
21 and Lyndon B. Johnson--were born in Texas and led the nation during
22 the Korean War and Vietnam War, respectively; and

23 WHEREAS, Military veterans of the Cold War have continued to
24 contribute to this country as private citizens and as public
25 servants; a number of them have been elected to leadership posts at
26 both the state and national levels; and

27 WHEREAS, It is essential that the history of the Cold War

1 decades be preserved, for the events of that time touched the lives
2 of millions of people and helped to set the stage for the 21st
3 century; in reflecting on that long and difficult confrontation, it
4 is also fitting that tribute be paid to the men and women of the
5 United States armed forces, who served selflessly and heroically in
6 that epic struggle; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
8 Legislature hereby recognize May 1, 2005, as Cold War Victory Day
9 and extend to all Cold War veterans of the American military sincere
10 appreciation for their exemplary service.