

By: Uresti

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R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest  
2 decoration for valor in combat that is awarded to members of the  
3 armed forces; generally presented to its recipient by the President  
4 of the United States on behalf of Congress, it is often called the  
5 Congressional Medal of Honor; and

6           WHEREAS, The medal was first authorized in 1861 for members  
7 of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, and the following year for  
8 soldiers in the Army as well; since then, more than 3,400 Medals of  
9 Honor have been awarded to members of all branches of the armed  
10 forces; Medals of Honor are awarded sparingly and are bestowed only  
11 on those individuals performing a documented heroic action against  
12 an enemy force; so few Medals of Honor are awarded that the only  
13 ones given since the Vietnam War have been bestowed posthumously;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, In order to honor those brave Americans who have  
16 garnered this award, nearly 70 descendants of living and deceased  
17 Medal of Honor recipients gathered in Pueblo, Colorado, in 2004 for  
18 the inaugural meeting of a new organization, the Family and Friends  
19 of the Congressional Medal of Honor; the mission of this nonprofit  
20 group is to perpetuate the history and heritage of the  
21 Congressional Medal of Honor and to educate future generations  
22 about the recipients' values of courage, commitment, and sacrifice;  
23 and

24           WHEREAS, Today, there are fewer than 150 living recipients of

1 the Medal of the Honor; approximately half of these earned their  
2 medals during World War II or the Korean War and the other half  
3 during the Vietnam War; of those living recipients, 12 reside in  
4 Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Through the years, 70 Medals of Honor have been  
6 accredited to the State of Texas; during the Civil War, two medals  
7 were bestowed for action in Texas, and 64 were awarded for heroism  
8 "on the ground" during the Indian Wars; moreover, 14 soldiers of the  
9 Texas National Guard received Medals of Honor for their service in  
10 World War II; and

11 WHEREAS, Americans owe an incalculable debt to the nation's  
12 military personnel, who have served valiantly throughout this  
13 country's history and whose efforts and sacrifice have ensured both  
14 our safety and our freedom, and it is particularly important to  
15 remember those brave individuals who have merited the Congressional  
16 Medal of Honor; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the Texas recipients of the Medal  
19 of Honor for their extraordinary heroism and commend the Family and  
20 Friends of the Congressional Medal of Honor for their efforts to  
21 honor those who have received this distinguished award.