

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Created in 1861 and bestowed on 3,460 individuals  
2 since then, the Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in  
3 action against the enemy that can be awarded to an individual in the  
4 armed forces of the United States; and

5           WHEREAS, The Texas Capitol display of Medal of Honor  
6 recipients from Texas brings to mind this day an appropriate and  
7 constant reminder of the price of freedom; and

8           WHEREAS, Learning the individual stories of the bravery and  
9 valor of these individuals can only deepen our appreciation and  
10 respect for them and for the freedoms we enjoy due to their actions;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, The particular stories of three individuals from  
13 McLennan County bring to the citizens of that area a great amount of  
14 pride and gratitude; and

15           WHEREAS, Before World War I in Veracruz, Mexico, in what  
16 became known in military history annals as the Mexican Campaign,  
17 Commander William Kelly Harrison of Waco was able to move his ship,  
18 the *USS Chester*, into a key strategic point in the inner harbor  
19 during the night and morning hours of April 21-22, 1914, without a  
20 pilot or the use of navigational lights, and was able to use his  
21 guns with telling effect at a critical time, thereby becoming  
22 McLennan County's first Medal of Honor recipient; and

23           WHEREAS, John Riley Kane of McGregor, a colonel in the U.S.  
24 Army Air Corps, earned his Medal of Honor in 1943 in a low-altitude

1 bombing raid on an Axis oil refinery; despite the refinery's  
2 defenses being fully engaged, and keeping to the low-altitude  
3 mission through smoke, fires, and delayed action bombs released by  
4 others in the raid, Colonel Kane displayed courageous leadership  
5 and superior flying skills in furthering the attack; and

6         WHEREAS, On May 29, 1951, 21-year-old Whitt Lloyd Moreland of  
7 Waco, a private first class in the Marine Corps and an intelligence  
8 scout, volunteered to accompany a rifle platoon on an assault  
9 against a strongly defended hill and helped take the hill through  
10 his accurate firing, upon which he observed and attempted to  
11 neutralize an enemy bunker some 400 yards away; advancing under  
12 fire, Pfc. Moreland deflected several live grenades before becoming  
13 disabled near another live grenade; shouting a warning to his  
14 colleagues, he covered the explosive device with his own body,  
15 absorbed the full blast, and is McLennan County's only posthumous  
16 recipient of the Medal of Honor; now, therefore, be it

17         RESOLVED, That the Texas House of Representatives hereby  
18 honor and remember with gratitude all recipients of the  
19 congressional Medal of Honor; and, be it further

20         RESOLVED, That the citizens of McLennan County be presented  
21 with an official copy of this resolution for which to properly  
22 memorialize these and the many other brave Americans who sacrifice  
23 their freedoms and even their lives for ours; and, be it further

24         RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives of the  
25 79th Texas Legislature adjourns on this final day of its regular  
26 session, it do so in honor of those Texans who have earned the

H.R. No. 2309

1 congressional Medal of Honor.

Anderson  
Dunnam

H.R. No. 2309

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2309 was adopted by the House on May 30, 2005, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House