

By: Anderson

H.R. No. 2309

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 which can be awarded to an individual in
4 the 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 bravery and valor
9 of these individuals can only deepen our appreciation and respect
10 for them, and for the freedoms we enjoy due to their actions; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, John Riley Kane of McGregor, a Colonel in the U.S.
23 Army Air Corps, earned his Medal of Honor in 1943 in a low-altitude
24 bombing raid on an Axis oil refinery; despite the refinery's

1 defenses being fully engaged, and keeping to the low-altitude
2 mission through smoke, fires, and delayed action bombs released by
3 others in the raid, Colonel Kane displayed courageous leadership
4 and superior flying skills in furthering the attack; and

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

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

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

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