

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 399

In Memory
of
George Herman O'Brien, Jr.

WHEREAS, In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln approved legislation which authorized the preparation of 2,000 Medals of Honor to "be presented, in the name of the Congress, to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other soldier-like qualities"; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest military award for valor and gallantry beyond the call of duty against an enemy force; since President Lincoln approved the award, there have been 3,459 recipients of the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, George Herman O'Brien, Jr., was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 10, 1926; he grew up in Big Spring and graduated from Texas Tech University; he was a resident of Midland, Texas, and was a respected leader in the community; and

WHEREAS, He joined the United States Marine Corps and proudly served his country during the Korean War; he was a rifle platoon commander in Company H, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced); and

WHEREAS, On October 27, 1952, at The Hook, Korea, Second Lieutenant O'Brien faced intense mortar and artillery fire while preparing to take a vital strategic position against a superior enemy force; and

WHEREAS, While leading his men into battle, Second Lieutenant O'Brien was severely wounded in the arm; he continued the assault on the enemy position, however, only pausing to aid his fellow wounded Marines; and

WHEREAS, Upon encountering the enemy at close range, he threw hand grenades in their bunkers and utilized hand-to-hand combat; despite severe wounds, Second Lieutenant O'Brien refused medical treatment and continued to lead his platoon for the next four hours; when relief finally arrived, Second Lieutenant O'Brien refused to evacuate in order to cover the withdrawal of his men and to assure no wounded were left behind; and

WHEREAS, For Second Lieutenant O'Brien's "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty," he was awarded the Medal of Honor; on October 27, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented George O'Brien the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Major George Herman O'Brien, Jr., passed away in Midland, Texas, on March 11, 2005; on March 16, he will be buried at the Texas State Cemetery next to Medal of Honor recipient James Marion Logan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby honor the life and memory of Major George Herman O'Brien, Jr., and extend sincere condolences to his bereaved family: his wife, Sandra O'Brien; his daughters and sons-in-law, Terrye O'Brien, Ann and Mark Daugherty, and Dorothy and Frank Stillwell; his sons and daughters-in-law, Mike and Susan O'Brien, Robb O'Brien, and Dick and Jody Holland; his brother, Joe O'Brien; and his grandchildren; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in the memory of Major George Herman O'Brien, Jr.

Wentworth

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 15, 2005, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate