

By: Pena

H.C.R. No. 121

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established  
2 to honor gallant and intrepid service by a member of the state or  
3 federal military forces, and through his courageous actions in  
4 Vietnam, Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez distinguished himself  
5 as a worthy recipient of this prestigious honor; and

6           WHEREAS, Born May 23, 1946, in Edinburg and a graduate of  
7 Edinburg High School, Sergeant Gonzalez enlisted in the U.S. Marine  
8 Corps in May 1965; after his first tour of duty in Vietnam, he was  
9 chosen to train new marines for guerilla warfare; and

10           WHEREAS, A few months later, Sergeant Gonzalez learned of an  
11 ambush in which men who had served under him had been killed;  
12 impelled by a strong sense of duty to his fellow marines and to his  
13 country, he volunteered for a second tour in Vietnam; and

14           WHEREAS, When, at the end of January 1968, North Vietnamese  
15 and Viet Cong troops launched the massive Tet Offensive, Sergeant  
16 Gonzalez and his platoon were ordered to Hue to relieve the pressure  
17 on that city; en route to Hue, the platoon's convoy was hit by heavy  
18 fire on several occasions; during one such encounter, Sergeant  
19 Gonzalez saw an injured marine lying in the road ahead and ran  
20 through enemy fire to carry the man to cover, receiving  
21 fragmentation wounds in the rescue; and

22           WHEREAS, With the column halted by withering fire from a  
23 fortified machine-gun bunker, Sergeant Gonzalez proceeded to guide  
24 his men to a protective dike; he then moved out onto a road being

1 raked by the gun and destroyed the bunker with hand grenades; later,  
2 on February 3, Sergeant Gonzalez was seriously wounded but  
3 continued to refuse medical treatment and to lead his men in their  
4 attack; and

5 WHEREAS, During fighting in Hue on February 4, his platoon of  
6 some 35 troops was again pinned down by a ferocious barrage; telling  
7 his unit to stay behind shelter, Sergeant Gonzalez moved forward  
8 aggressively with hand grenades and small antitank rockets, firing  
9 numerous rounds against enemy emplacements; and

10 WHEREAS, Entering a church, where the North Vietnamese were  
11 heavily fortified, he succeeded in suppressing virtually all of  
12 their fire; before the last of it could be silenced, however, he was  
13 mortally wounded; and

14 WHEREAS, Because he succeeded in destroying so many North  
15 Vietnamese positions, Sergeant Gonzalez was credited with saving  
16 the lives of the men in his platoon; the following year, in  
17 consequence of his extraordinary and selfless action, he was  
18 posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, becoming the only marine  
19 in combat during the Tet Offensive to receive that award; and

20 WHEREAS, For those with whom he served, the heroism displayed  
21 by Sergeant Gonzalez was completely in character; "it seemed like  
22 he was everywhere all the time," one remembered; "he was always  
23 there in the front, never in the back . . . he was always there for  
24 us"; and

25 WHEREAS, Among the awards subsequently conferred on Sergeant  
26 Gonzalez were three Purple Hearts, four Presidential Unit  
27 Citations, and a Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National

1 Defense Medal, and Cold War Certificate; in addition, he was the  
2 posthumous recipient of two South Vietnamese decorations--the  
3 Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with gold palm and star and the Vietnam  
4 Service Medal with four bronze stars; in 1996, the U.S. Navy  
5 commissioned a new guided missile-destroyer in his honor; and

6 WHEREAS, Through his unhesitating selflessness and his  
7 unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and his country, Sergeant  
8 Alfredo Gonzalez embodied the highest ideals of the armed service,  
9 and he most assuredly merits the award of this state's supreme  
10 military medal; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
12 hereby posthumously confer the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor on  
13 Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez in recognition of his heroic  
14 service and express to his family its deepest appreciation on  
15 behalf of all his fellow Texans; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for the family of Sergeant Gonzalez as an expression of  
18 highest regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.