

By: Castro

H.R. No. 568

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Martin Contreras of San Antonio has ably served this
2 nation as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, and his exemplary
3 efforts as a member of the Mississippi National Guard Special
4 Forces have earned him the Bronze Star Medal, the military's
5 fourth-highest award for heroic or meritorious achievement; and

6 WHEREAS, Currently enrolled and employed at The University of
7 Texas at San Antonio, Mr. Contreras is pursuing a master's degree in
8 education with a concentration in health and kinesiology while also
9 working as an occupational safety specialist at the university; he
10 completed his undergraduate studies in biology at Campbell
11 University in Buies Creek, North Carolina, while stationed at Fort
12 Bragg, and he also holds certification as a licensed vocational
13 nurse; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Contreras joined the Army and was first deployed
15 to Afghanistan in September 2001, shortly after the events of
16 September 11; that mission opened his eyes to another part of the
17 world, and he worked diligently to understand the Afghani people
18 and their culture during his time there; following his June 2002
19 return from Afghanistan, he had several months stateside and then
20 was deployed to Iraq, where he set up combat support hospitals; and

21 WHEREAS, On being released from active duty, Mr. Contreras
22 began his graduate studies at UTSA in summer 2004; his desire to be
23 commissioned as an officer in the military led him to seek out the
24 closest National Guard outfit with a special forces group, which he

1 found--and subsequently joined--in Mississippi, and in January
2 2006 his National Guard battalion volunteered for a mission in
3 Afghanistan, enabling Mr. Contreras to return to that country and
4 witness firsthand the many changes that had taken place since his
5 first visit; and

6 WHEREAS, It was during that mission that Mr. Contreras earned
7 the Bronze Star for his outstanding service as a special forces
8 medic; in addition to overseeing the establishment of 25
9 humanitarian and medical aid clinics across the country, this brave
10 soldier also arranged for the evacuation of an injured Afghani
11 child and demonstrated sound judgment and decisive action while
12 reuniting a convoy split up by enemy fire; and

13 WHEREAS, From an early age, Martin Contreras benefited from
14 the love and support of his devoted grandparents, Trine and Rachel
15 Contreras, who helped to instill in him a strong work ethic, a
16 commitment to helping others, and a desire for self-improvement,
17 and those same ideals have motivated him to apply for entrance into
18 medical school; and

19 WHEREAS, From the tiny West Texas town of Hamlin to the lands
20 of Afghanistan and Iraq to the academic environs of UTSA, this
21 devoted husband and father of three has applied the lessons learned
22 from his grandparents to good effect, and it is a pleasure to honor
23 him for his many notable achievements; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
25 Legislature hereby congratulate Martin Contreras on his receipt of
26 the Bronze Star Medal for his service in Afghanistan and commend him
27 for his continuing pursuit of excellence in all his endeavors; and,

1 be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for Mr. Contreras as an expression of high regard by the
4 Texas House of Representatives.