

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Operation Helmet, a nonprofit group founded by
2 citizens of Montgomery County, is providing a valuable service to
3 members of the United States armed forces by helping to safeguard
4 them from injuries; and

5 WHEREAS, Formed in 2004, Operation Helmet has worked to
6 provide combat personnel with an upgraded helmet padding system
7 that provides improved protection from bomb blasts; the
8 organization was founded by naval veteran and medical activist Dr.
9 Robert H. Meaders and his grandson, Sergeant Justin Meaders, a
10 member of the U.S. Marine Corps; after learning of the benefits of
11 the enhanced padding, Dr. Meaders led efforts to provide it to all
12 100 members of his grandson's company; and

13 WHEREAS, Quickly expanding its operations, Operation Helmet
14 began raising funds to underwrite the provision of the padding
15 system to other military personnel; since beginning this mission,
16 the organization has taken in \$3 million in donations, which has
17 allowed it to provide 35,000 helmet upgrade kits; and

18 WHEREAS, This effort has been spearheaded by Operation
19 Helmet's hardworking staff, which includes a number of military
20 veterans in addition to Dr. Meaders; retired Marine Robert Fellers
21 is the vice president of fund-raising, Richard Vetter, retired from
22 the U.S. Army, is vice president and treasurer, and Jack Visage,
23 retired from the U.S. Navy, is vice president and secretary; other
24 key figures include Mark Meaders, a retired Air Force major, and

1 Carla Jean Meaders, a retired Air Force senior master sergeant, who
2 serve as directors of the organization's East Coast operations; and

3 WHEREAS, These dedicated men and women and all other
4 Operation Helmet volunteers receive no salary, allowing 99 percent
5 of all donations to be applied directly to providing the helmet
6 padding; and

7 WHEREAS, A wide range of corporate donors have supported
8 Operation Helmet, including North American Metals, Continental
9 Airlines, and Wal-Mart, as have generous individuals ranging from
10 schoolchildren to famous entertainers such as Cher; all have been
11 motivated by the idea of doing their part to aid the troops who
12 defend this nation; and

13 WHEREAS, By stepping forward to provide valuable equipment to
14 combat troops, Operation Helmet has greatly contributed to the
15 safety of military personnel serving in harm's way, and the
16 organization's steadfast commitment to its patriotic goal is in the
17 finest tradition of American volunteerism; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
19 Legislature hereby commend Operation Helmet for its volunteer
20 efforts in support of U.S. military personnel and extend best
21 wishes to the organization's staff for continued success with its
22 important work; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Operation Helmet as an expression of high regard by the
25 Texas House of Representatives.

Creighton

H.R. No. 1377

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1377 was adopted by the House on April 19, 2007, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House