

By: Creighton

H.R. No. 1377

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.