

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1822

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Greenville and Hunt County are  
2 celebrating Audie Murphy Days on June 15 and 16, 2007, in  
3 commemoration of the famed Hunt County native and World War II hero;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Cohosted by the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum  
6 and by Hunt County veterans' organizations, this two-day  
7 extravaganza honors the most decorated American soldier of World  
8 War II; and

9 WHEREAS, Born near Kingston, Audie Murphy enlisted in the  
10 army in 1941 and rose from the rank of private to first lieutenant  
11 before being discharged on September 21, 1945; his valorous  
12 performance in the European theater earned him every American medal  
13 for bravery, as well as several foreign awards; and

14 WHEREAS, Chief among the prestigious accolades he received  
15 was the Medal of Honor, for which he was recommended after a  
16 stunning display of leadership and heroism as he led Company B of  
17 the 15th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, in battle near Holtzwihr,  
18 France, on January 26, 1945; in the face of an assault by six German  
19 tanks and waves of infantry, he ordered his men to withdraw to  
20 prepared positions in some woods while he remained in a forward  
21 position and directed Allied artillery fire by telephone; when the  
22 German tanks came abreast of his position, he mounted a burning  
23 Allied tank destroyer, which was in danger of exploding at any  
24 moment, and employed its machine gun against the German infantry,

1 causing both the infantry and the German tanks to fall back; and

2 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Murphy continued his single-handed fight  
3 for an hour, enduring German fire from three directions and  
4 successfully wiping out a squad that tried to approach him on his  
5 right flank, some soldiers reaching within 10 yards of his position  
6 before being cut down; when his ammunition gave out, he withdrew,  
7 refused medical attention for a leg wound he had sustained, and  
8 organized a counterattack that forced the Germans to withdraw; his  
9 courageous and selfless actions saved his company from possible  
10 encirclement and annihilation and enabled it to hold the woods,  
11 which had been the Germans' objective; and

12 WHEREAS, Having gained national recognition as one of the  
13 country's bravest officers, Audie Murphy moved to California  
14 following the war and sought work as an actor; after struggling for  
15 several years, he went on to make 44 films during his 25-year screen  
16 career, including the 1955 box office hit *To Hell and Back*, which  
17 was based on his autobiography of the same name; in addition, he was  
18 a successful horse breeder and a talented songwriter; and

19 WHEREAS, A legendary figure in the annals of American  
20 history, Audie Murphy embodied the ideals of bravery, patriotism,  
21 and unflinching resolve, and it is most fitting that the life of  
22 this heroic American soldier be celebrated; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
24 Legislature hereby recognize June 15 and 16, 2007, as Audie Murphy  
25 Days in Greenville and Hunt County and extend to the days'  
26 organizers and participants best wishes for a successful and  
27 memorable event; and, be it further

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1           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2 prepared for the Audie Murphy Days organizing committee as an  
3 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.