

By: Gonzalez Toureilles

H.R. No. 2215

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Felipe Leal, Jr., of Kenedy has
2 rendered exceptional service to this country as a member of the
3 United States Army; and

4 WHEREAS, Sergeant Leal, who is scheduled to deploy for his
5 fourth tour of duty in Iraq in early fall of 2007, currently
6 commands a platoon in the 101st Airborne Division; and

7 WHEREAS, This dedicated officer first deployed for the Middle
8 East on August 27, 2002, for a year's tour of duty; he served as a
9 sergeant with L Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, in the initial
10 invasion of Iraq, which succeeded in toppling the regime of Saddam
11 Hussein; and

12 WHEREAS, After transferring to K Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry
13 Regiment, Sergeant Leal served as a truck commander during a second
14 tour in Iraq, returning to the United States on July 9, 2004; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Leal deployed for a third, yearlong tour in
16 Iraq on August 27, 2005, with the "Strike" Brigade of the 101st
17 Airborne; on December 17, 2005, while he was supervising security
18 for a cordon and search, an occupant of an approaching civilian
19 vehicle unleashed automatic weapon fire, striking Sergeant Leal in
20 the face and back and knocking him to the ground; Sergeant Leal
21 quickly rose to his feet and returned fire, demonstrating
22 tremendous courage in the performance of his duties; and

23 WHEREAS, The son of Georgia Leal and Felipe Leal, Sr.,
24 Sergeant Leal enlisted in the Army Reserve on June 22, 1992, at the

1 age of 17; following his graduation from Kenedy High School in 1993,
2 he attended basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and
3 served with the 288th FSC in Victoria; he enlisted in the active
4 army on October 14, 1997, and trained as a cavalry scout at Fort
5 Knox, Kentucky; and

6 WHEREAS, Among the many awards and decorations conferred on
7 Sergeant Leal are the Bronze Star with "V" device, the Purple Heart,
8 the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and five Oak Leaf
9 Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with nine Oak Leaf Clusters,
10 and the Army Good Conduct Medal with "knot" device; and

11 WHEREAS, A courageous soldier who has demonstrated
12 unwavering devotion to duty and to his fellow servicemen and
13 servicewomen, Sergeant Leal exemplifies the highest ideals of the
14 United States armed forces, and he is indeed deserving of his fellow
15 citizens' deepest gratitude; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby honor Sergeant First Class Felipe Leal, Jr., for
18 his valiant service in this country's behalf and extend to him
19 profound appreciation for his heroic efforts; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Sergeant Leal as an expression of high regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives.