

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 2483

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The papers of one of the Lone Star State's most
2 highly decorated military heroes, Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez,
3 are being donated by his family to the Institute for Studies in
4 American Military History at The University of Texas at Austin
5 Center for American History; and

6 WHEREAS, Born on August 5, 1935, in DeWitt County, Sergeant
7 Benavidez enlisted in the United States Army in 1955 and through
8 superior mental and physical prowess became a member of the Special
9 Forces, a Green Beret; and

10 WHEREAS, While serving in Vietnam in 1965, Roy Benavidez was
11 seriously wounded after stepping on a land mine; despite the doubts
12 of his doctors, he regained the full use of his legs and returned to
13 Vietnam for a second tour of duty; and

14 WHEREAS, On May 2, 1968, Sergeant Benavidez initiated a
15 daring mission to extract 12 Special Forces soldiers who had been
16 trapped by North Vietnamese forces; during six hours of brutal
17 fighting, in the course of which he was severely wounded, he saved
18 the lives of eight Special Forces soldiers and helped to retrieve
19 the bodies of four others; and

20 WHEREAS, His actions that day earned Sergeant Benavidez the
21 Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Texas
22 Legislative Medal of Honor; and

23 WHEREAS, The exceptional bravery that Sergeant Benavidez
24 displayed has also occasioned the naming of several Texas schools,

1 a National Guard Armory, an Army Reserve center, a U.S. naval ship,
2 and a city park in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in his honor; a GI
3 Joe action figure, the first to depict a Hispanic soldier, has also
4 been designed with his likeness; and

5 WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the military in 1976,
6 Sergeant Benavidez gave generously of his time and energy to
7 numerous veterans' organizations; he also traveled throughout the
8 country to speak to schoolchildren, whom he encouraged to stay in
9 school and avoid such dangers as drugs and gangs; and

10 WHEREAS, The gift of the Benavidez Papers to UT was
11 facilitated by Steve Sucher, a longtime family friend and
12 confidant; collected over a period of more than 30 years, the papers
13 are expected to form the cornerstone of an archive at the institute
14 centered on Medal of Honor recipients from Texas; this material
15 will constitute a significant resource for all who would seek to
16 understand and tell the stories of those individuals and the wars
17 they fought; and

18 WHEREAS, A soldier of extraordinary selflessness and
19 courage, Roy Benavidez inspired countless individuals during his
20 life, and the donation of his papers to one of the outstanding
21 archives in the country ensures that his influence will continue to
22 reach Americans for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
24 Legislature hereby commemorate the donation of the Master Sergeant
25 Roy P. Benavidez Papers to The University of Texas at Austin and
26 extend deepest thanks to Sergeant Benavidez's wife, Hilaria
27 Benavidez, and his children, Noel Benavidez, Yvette Benavidez

1 Garcia, and Denise Benavidez Prochazka, for this invaluable gift;
2 and, be it further

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