

By: Vaught

H.R. No. 2886

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Jess and Peggy Johnson of Dallas have made a  
2 profound difference in the lives of countless veterans through  
3 their nonprofit organization Vet to Vet, which they founded in  
4 December 1994; and

5           WHEREAS, Just before Christmas of that year, the couple  
6 distributed hamburgers and coffee thermoses to 24 patients at the  
7 Dallas VA Hospital; their generosity was warmly received but the  
8 Johnsons soon discovered that they lacked sufficient supplies to  
9 provide gifts to each of the hundreds of patients in the  
10 transitional care unit; they returned the next day with thermoses  
11 for the others, and in the years since they have expanded their  
12 operation to include the Bonham, Waco, and Temple VA hospitals in  
13 addition to the Dallas location; they now provide 4,000 gifts to  
14 1,600 patients each Christmas; in addition, they host monthly bingo  
15 games at the Bonham and Dallas locations and invite veterans to  
16 attend barbecues and lunches throughout the year; and

17           WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will host three fund-raisers in  
18 2007 in support of Texas VA hospitals, including the facility in San  
19 Antonio, and the Johnsons would like to put Vet to Vet chapters in  
20 all 162 VA hospitals across the country; moreover, they are working  
21 to develop a Big Brother mentorship program that would match Iraq  
22 veterans with Vietnam veterans to help address the effects of  
23 post-traumatic stress disorder, and they are building homes on land  
24 near the Dallas hospital for veterans and their families to live in

1 free of charge during their rehabilitation; and

2 WHEREAS, A veteran himself, Mr. Johnson served as a U.S. Army  
3 combat medic in the Vietnam War and as a U.S. Army Reserve weapons  
4 specialist and instructor at the JFK Special Warfare Center before  
5 retiring in 1999; he owns Town and Country Insurance and Global  
6 Venture Partners, which works with the U.S. government to provide  
7 security detail and intelligence operations at key locations around  
8 the world, including volatile areas such as Baghdad, Iraq; highly  
9 decorated for his military service, he has received the Bronze  
10 Star, the Air Medal, the Combat Medical Badge, the Good Conduct  
11 Award, a Special Forces Tab, and two Purple Hearts, to name but a  
12 few of his honors; Mrs. Johnson is an international flight  
13 attendant in her 25th year with American Airlines, and she and her  
14 husband are the proud parents of two children, Jessica and Justin;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Our state and nation are fortunate to have men and  
17 women whose love for their country inspires them to take up military  
18 service, and the generous outreach of Jess and Peggy Johnson gives  
19 these individuals a much-needed reminder of the respect and  
20 gratitude they have earned through their sacrifices, their  
21 dedication, and their immense courage; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby commend Jess and Peggy Johnson for organizing  
24 and supporting the nonprofit organization Vet to Vet and extend to  
25 them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Johnson as an expression of high regard by

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1 the Texas House of Representatives.