

By: Patrick

S.R. No. 941

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, From 1945 to 1991, the world witnessed a military, economic, and ideological confrontation known as the Cold War; waged most prominently by the United States and the Soviet Union, the struggle involved almost every nation on earth to some degree and had a profound impact on the course of world history over the latter half of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Although the Cold War never erupted into a full-scale armed conflict between the world's superpowers, it gave impetus to a number of localized hot wars, as well as to a massive, long-term arms race; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the Cold War, the State of Texas played a significant role in this country's military preparedness by contributing personnel to the armed forces, serving as the site of important military facilities, and providing material support by way of private industry; and

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of Texans served in the military during the course of the Cold War, and many made the ultimate sacrifice; the loss of Texans in Korea from 1950 to 1957 numbered 1,719, and in Vietnam, 3,415; and

WHEREAS, The state currently has 16 military installations that figured notably in the country's defense system during the period of the Cold War; moreover, Texas was home to Nike and Atlas Ballastic Missile silos, as well as to Strategic Air Command

units at Biggs, Carswell, Sheppard, Dyess, Amarillo, and Bergstrom Air Force Bases; other air force bases located in the state during that time included Brooks, Goodfellow, Kelly, Lackland, Laredo, Laughlin, Randolph, Reese, and Webb; and

WHEREAS, All 15 of those air force facilities constituted first-strike targets for the Soviet military; secondary targets in Texas included Beeville, Corpus Christi, Kingsville, Sherman-Denison, Texarkana, Fort Bliss, Fort Hood, and the Houston petrochemical complex; and

WHEREAS, Many industrial enterprises in Texas made vital contributions during the Cold War years; the state's oil industry had a major role in supplying the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, while a number of key defense contractors were either based in Texas or had large Texas operations; among such companies were Texas Instruments, Lockheed, EDS, Bell Helicopter, and Textron; and

WHEREAS, One dimension of the Cold War involved a race for leadership in space exploration; crucial to American efforts in this arena was the Johnson Space Center in Houston, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration headquarters for manned spaceflight; and

WHEREAS, Eight successive American presidents grappled with the challenges of the Cold War; two of these--Dwight D. Eisenhower and Lyndon B. Johnson--were born in Texas and led the nation during the Korean War and Vietnam War, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Military veterans of the Cold War have continued to contribute to this country as private citizens and as public

servants; a number of them have been elected to leadership posts at both the state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that the history of the Cold War decades be preserved, for the events of that time touched the lives of millions of people and helped to set the stage for the 21st century; in reflecting on that long and difficult confrontation, it is also fitting that tribute be paid to the men and women of the United States armed forces, who served selflessly and heroically in that epic struggle; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby recognize May 1, 2007, as Cold War Victory Day and extend to all Cold War veterans of the American military sincere appreciation for their exemplary service; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of Cold War veterans.