

1-1 By: Peña (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.C.R. No. 5  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 7, 2009;  
1-3 May 12, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran  
1-4 Affairs and Military Installations; May 21, 2009, reported  
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 21, 2009,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established  
1-9 to honor gallant and intrepid service by a member of the state or  
1-10 federal military forces, and through his courageous actions in  
1-11 World War II, United States Army Private Pedro Cano distinguished  
1-12 himself as a worthy recipient of this prestigious award; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Born to Nicholasa Gonzalez Cano and Secundino Cano  
1-14 on July 7, 1920, in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, Pedro Cano moved with his  
1-15 family to Texas as an infant and spent the rest of his life, except  
1-16 for his time in the army, in the Rio Grande Valley; and

1-17 WHEREAS, After joining the armed forces during World War II,  
1-18 Private Cano was deployed to Europe, where he fought with the 4th  
1-19 Infantry Division; in December 1944, he was advancing with his  
1-20 company near Schevenhutte, Germany, when they came under withering  
1-21 fire from German machine guns; with his comrades pinned down,  
1-22 Private Cano worked his way forward alone, through a hail of fire  
1-23 and over more than 100 yards of heavily mined terrain, until he was  
1-24 within 30 feet of the nearest German emplacement; firing one round  
1-25 with his hand-held rocket launcher, he destroyed the position and  
1-26 killed its two gunners and five supporting riflemen; he then moved  
1-27 on toward a second emplacement, which he attacked with his rifle and  
1-28 hand grenades, killing several more soldiers; and

1-29 WHEREAS, With another American company nearby similarly  
1-30 immobilized, Private Cano crept to within 15 yards of a third  
1-31 emplacement, killed its two gunners with a rocket, and then  
1-32 destroyed yet another emplacement and killed its gunners, enabling  
1-33 that company to also advance; and

1-34 WHEREAS, The next day, the Americans once more encountered  
1-35 heavy German resistance, and Private Cano again moved forward alone  
1-36 with his bazooka; crossing open, fire-swept ground, he succeeded in  
1-37 suppressing three more machine-gun positions and killing their  
1-38 gunners, bringing to nearly 30 the number of German soldiers he  
1-39 killed during that two-day period; and

1-40 WHEREAS, Sometime later, while on patrol, Private Cano and  
1-41 his platoon were surprised by German soldiers, who inflicted heavy  
1-42 casualties; Private Cano lay motionless on the ground until the  
1-43 assailants closed in, then tossed a grenade into their midst,  
1-44 wounding or killing all of them; and

1-45 WHEREAS, It was in this engagement, or shortly afterward,  
1-46 that Pedro Cano sustained injuries that left him permanently  
1-47 disabled; in addition to a Purple Heart, he was awarded two Silver  
1-48 Stars and a Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's  
1-49 second-highest award for valor; of the more than 16,100,000  
1-50 individuals who served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II,  
1-51 only 5,059 were recognized with the DSC; and

1-52 WHEREAS, Mr. Cano's most illustrious medal arrived at his  
1-53 home near Edinburg in the mail, prompting area citizens to plan a  
1-54 formal ceremony, complete with numerous other festivities; on April  
1-55 26, 1946, Pedro Cano Day, some 4,000 local residents turned out to  
1-56 witness General Jonathan M. Wainwright present the medal to the  
1-57 former private; also present on the dais were other high-ranking  
1-58 American and Mexican military officers, as well as civil officials  
1-59 and several other Rio Grande Valley military heroes; in his  
1-60 remarks, General Wainwright declared that he believed Pedro Cano  
1-61 actually deserved the highest recognition of all, the Medal of  
1-62 Honor; and

1-63 WHEREAS, In May 1946, Mr. Cano realized a longtime aspiration  
1-64 when he received his American citizenship; six years later, on June

2-1 24, 1952, he was killed in a traffic accident; survived by his wife,  
2-2 Herminia Garza Cano, his daughters, Dominga and Maria, and his son,  
2-3 Susano, Pedro Cano was buried with military honors in Edinburg,  
2-4 where today a street and an elementary school both bear his name;  
2-5 and

2-6 WHEREAS, Pedro Cano repeatedly risked his life to save the  
2-7 lives of his fellow soldiers and to help advance their mission, and  
2-8 for his extraordinary heroism he is most assuredly deserving of  
2-9 this state's supreme military award; now, therefore, be it

2-10 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
2-11 hereby posthumously confer the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor on  
2-12 Pedro Cano in recognition of his courageous actions in World War II  
2-13 and express to his family its deepest appreciation on behalf of all  
2-14 his fellow Texans; and, be it further

2-15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2-16 prepared for Mr. Cano's family as an expression of highest regard by  
2-17 the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

2-18

\* \* \* \* \*