

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 878

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas is home to seven hubs of Honor Flight Network,
2 which pays tribute in a most remarkable way to veterans who have
3 served in this nation's wars; and

4 WHEREAS, This exceptional program had its origins in 2004,
5 when Earl Morse, a physician assistant with the U.S. Department of
6 Veterans Affairs, observed the conversations among his World War II
7 veteran patients regarding the new World War II Memorial in
8 Washington, D.C.; in the months after its dedication, Mr. Morse
9 came to realize how many veterans of that conflict wanted to see the
10 monument but would be unable to do so, for physical or financial
11 reasons; and

12 WHEREAS, A retired air force captain and a private pilot, Mr.
13 Morse approached his aero club with a proposal for volunteer pilots
14 to fly World War II veterans to Washington to see their memorial;
15 the response was so favorable that a board was soon formed and funds
16 raised; in May 2005, six planes flew 12 veterans to the nation's
17 capital, where they visited the memorial and were escorted on a tour
18 around the city; and

19 WHEREAS, That flight made a profound impression on both the
20 veterans who participated and on their pilots, and other trips were
21 soon arranged; by the end of the year, the program began using
22 commercial airliners to accommodate more veterans; word of the
23 project spread, and similar programs were instituted in various
24 parts of the country; in 2006, Honor Flight Network was organized in

1 Washington, D.C., at a meeting attended by more than 100 people;
2 today, HFN has 71 hubs in 30 states; and

3 WHEREAS, The Texas hubs of HFN are located in Amarillo,
4 Dallas, Ennis, Houston, Midland, San Antonio, and Waxahachie; like
5 all HFN groups, these hubs arrange for veterans to visit the World
6 War II Memorial and Washington, D.C., free of charge; countless
7 hours go into planning the trips, raising funds, and coordinating
8 logistics; and

9 WHEREAS, In the future, HFN plans to extend its service to
10 veterans of subsequent conflicts; already, terminally ill veterans
11 of any war are given priority on its flights; by the end of 2009, HFN
12 hubs collectively will have transported more than 42,000 World War
13 II and Korean and Vietnam War veterans to see the memorials erected
14 in their honor; and

15 WHEREAS, This country owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude
16 to the veterans of all of its wars, and the men and women of Honor
17 Flight Network are performing a deeply meaningful service in
18 recognition of their sacrifice; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
20 Legislature hereby commend the Texas hubs of Honor Flight Network
21 for their exceptional efforts in behalf of this country's veterans
22 and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued success in
23 their endeavors; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
25 for the Texas hubs of Honor Flight Network as an expression of high
26 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.