

By: Vaught

H.R. No. 1591

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Between the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945,
2 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union on December 25-26, 1991, the
3 world witnessed a period of military, economic, and ideological
4 confrontation known as the Cold War; and

5 WHEREAS, Although the Cold War never erupted into a
6 full-scale armed conflict between the world's superpowers, it gave
7 impetus to a number of localized hot wars, as well as to a massive
8 military buildup on the part of both the United States and the
9 Soviet Union; the consequent demands on U.S. military personnel
10 were often arduous and dangerous; and

11 WHEREAS, In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
12 Year 2002, Congress authorized the U.S. Department of Defense to
13 issue a Cold War Service Medal, to be given to each member of the
14 U.S. military who served satisfactorily on active duty during the
15 Cold War era; the DOD has refused, however, to create such an award;
16 instead, since 1999, the department has made available a Cold War
17 Recognition Certificate, to be given to those who served during the
18 Cold War either as a member of the armed forces or as a federal
19 employee; and

20 WHEREAS, Cold War veterans believe that this certificate
21 scarcely suffices to recognize the sacrifices they bore or the
22 service they rendered; since the certificate was first offered, the
23 American Legion, VFW, Reserve Officers Association, Combat
24 Infantrymen's Association, Cold War Veterans Association, and

1 AMVETS have all expressed the desire that service in the Cold War be
2 honored with an official medal; and

3 WHEREAS, A medal that honors service similar to that of Cold
4 War veterans already exists and, if made available to those
5 veterans, would both pay them the tribute they are owed and resolve
6 the Pentagon's concern about the cost of issuing a new award; the
7 American Defense Service Medal, created by Executive Order 8808, is
8 given to service personnel who served between September 8, 1939,
9 following the outbreak of war in Europe, and December 7, 1941, when
10 Japan bombed Pearl Harbor; as during the Cold War, the U.S. military
11 spent this period bracing for armed hostilities; and

12 WHEREAS, A precedent for expanding the dates of eligibility
13 for the American Defense Service Medal exists with the National
14 Defense Service Medal; initially awarded for service during the
15 period of the Korean War, the NDSM was subsequently awarded for
16 service during the period of the Vietnam War, Desert Shield/Desert
17 Storm, and the Global War on Terror; and

18 WHEREAS, The heraldry, order of precedence, and related
19 issues pertaining to the American Defense Service Medal have
20 already been settled; the only change in the medal that would be
21 required would be the removal of the original dates of eligibility,
22 which are presently engraved on the reverse; removing these dates
23 will also facilitate the reopening of this award for service during
24 a similar period of emergency in the future; and

25 WHEREAS, There is little doubt that Cold War veterans will
26 prefer to purchase the American Defense Service Medal as opposed to
27 unofficial commemorative medals, which are not authorized to be

1 worn on uniforms, thus significantly reducing the cost to the
2 defense department for providing this award; and

3 WHEREAS, Those who served in the United States Army, Navy,
4 Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard during the years of the Cold War
5 made an immeasurable contribution to the safety of this country and
6 its allies, and they are indeed deserving of appropriate
7 recognition; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
9 Legislature hereby respectfully urge the president of the United
10 States to modify Executive Order 8808 so as to award the American
11 Defense Service Medal to United States armed forces personnel who
12 served on active duty in the period after September 1, 1945, and
13 before December 27, 1991; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the house forward an
15 official copy of this resolution to the president of the United
16 States.