

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 76

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Emilio "Ray" Aguirre, who has been selected for the Texas Community Health Network's first annual Unsung Heroes Award; and

WHEREAS, Ray Aguirre graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in 1946 and joined the United States Marines; he served honorably until 1947, when he was placed in the Marine Corps Reserve; and

WHEREAS, He was called to active duty in August of 1950 during the Korean Conflict and fought against the Chinese in the Battle at the Chosin Valley Reservoir, where he was wounded and endured severe frostbite; he received the Purple Heart, retired with 100 percent disability, and subsequently wrote about his experiences in the book, *We'll Be Home for Christmas*; and

WHEREAS, He began civilian life in 1951 as a sheet metal worker; he was curator for the Museum of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base; a talented artist, he became a medical book illustrator, and he painted a picture depicting the first man on the moon that still stands inside the historic Brooks City Base Hangar 9; and

WHEREAS, He was a founder of the San Antonio Chapter of the Chosin Few and a member of the Purple Heart Association and Disabled American Veterans Association; he is past president of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9186; he designed and directed the building of the Korean War Veterans Memorial that stands in front of the Municipal Auditorium; and

WHEREAS, A devoted husband and father of four, Ray Aguirre has long been a respected leader in his community, active in youth athletics and fundraising for various causes; in retirement, he has served as a volunteer for the Memorial Detachment Service at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Heroes are those individuals who inspire us by their courage, sacrifice, and perseverance in facing challenges; Ray Aguirre exemplifies the true spirit of heroism through his service, his allegiance, and his commitment to helping others; he is indeed worthy of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby commend Emilio "Ray" Aguirre for his loyalty and selfless service to others and congratulate him on being selected for the Texas Community Health Network's first annual Unsung Heroes Award; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of highest regard from the Texas Senate.

Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 28, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate