

By: Smithee

H.C.R. No. 145

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established  
2 to recognize gallant and intrepid service by a Texan in the state or  
3 federal military forces, and through his courageous actions in  
4 France during World War II, Lieutenant General (Brevet) Everett  
5 Selden Simpson proved himself a worthy candidate for this  
6 prestigious honor; and

7 WHEREAS, Born in Clarendon on February 17, 1915, Selden  
8 Simpson graduated from Amarillo High School and enlisted in the  
9 Texas National Guard in 1933; he earned his bachelor's degree from  
10 The University of Texas at Austin and completed his law degree at  
11 the University of Colorado in 1940; when the 36th Infantry Division  
12 was mobilized in November 1940, he was commissioned a second  
13 lieutenant and left his law practice to become platoon leader of  
14 Company M, 142nd Infantry Regiment; and

15 WHEREAS, General Simpson would become one of the few ranking  
16 officers to serve in the 36th Infantry Division throughout World  
17 War II, participating in every major engagement of its 19 months of  
18 European combat; he distinguished himself in service in North  
19 Africa and attended a British intelligence officers' school in  
20 Cairo as well as the Fifth Army Leadership and Battle Training  
21 course; as a regimental intelligence officer, he took part in the  
22 division's invasion of Italy in 1943, landing in Salerno in  
23 September and then in the Anzio perimeter the next spring; and

24 WHEREAS, During the invasion of southern France, General

1 Simpson assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry  
2 Regiment, when its commander was wounded; given orders to clear the  
3 enemy from the town of Remiremont, he earned the enduring gratitude  
4 of the French by liberating the city in a swift yet methodical way,  
5 taking the city street by street to avoid massive civilian  
6 casualties and the destruction of homes; he remained in the city  
7 until September 25 to protect a crossing over the Moselle River and  
8 he helped two other battalion leaders to break a counterattack by  
9 the Germans; and

10 WHEREAS, On September 28, 1944, at the beginning of the Rhine  
11 Campaign against entrenched German forces, General Simpson led an  
12 assault platoon in an attack on the mountainous area near  
13 Remiremont; although they came under intense enemy fire from both  
14 flanks, General Simpson established a command post and moved from  
15 company to company to organize positions and point out sectors of  
16 fire; while advancing, he was struck by an exploding mortar shell,  
17 but despite severe wounds, he refused to be evacuated, insisting  
18 that other injured men be removed first; he continued to shout  
19 orders and encourage his soldiers to push forward even as two men  
20 were assisting him to the battalion aid station, and while his  
21 painful wounds were being dressed, he issued plans for the  
22 forthcoming attack and maintained his focus on the needs of his men;  
23 for his extraordinary actions on that day, he was awarded the  
24 Distinguished Service Cross; and

25 WHEREAS, This remarkable Texan returned from an Italian  
26 hospital in January 1945 as a lieutenant colonel and resumed  
27 command of the 3rd Battalion; one month later, when communication

1 capabilities faltered during an attack on German forces, he crossed  
2 the river under enemy observation and direct fire to reach forward  
3 elements and guide them, and then returned by the same hazardous  
4 route; his resolute leadership in that battle earned him the Silver  
5 Star; that March, he led a brilliant attack on a strongly fortified  
6 hill in the Siegfried Line defenses, amid heavy small arms fire, and  
7 his troops killed 57 Germans, captured 45, and forced the remainder  
8 to flee; General Simpson was awarded the Bronze Star, and his  
9 outstanding service brought him numerous other decorations, among  
10 them the Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster,  
11 the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with six Stars  
12 and Arrowhead, and the French Croix de Guerre with Star; and

13       WHEREAS, Deeply loyal to the "Fighting 36th Infantry  
14 Division," General Simpson declined the opportunity to serve in the  
15 Judge Advocate General Corps after the war; he assisted in the  
16 reorganization of the 36th Infantry Division, Texas National Guard,  
17 and was appointed as Regimental Executive Officer; in 1949, he  
18 became regimental commander of the 142nd Infantry and was promoted  
19 to colonel, and he completed Command and General Staff College at  
20 Fort Leavenworth; he became the first commander of the newly  
21 constituted 1st Battle Group, 142nd Infantry when it was  
22 reorganized under the Pentomic concept in 1959 and continued to  
23 advance through the ranks, eventually serving with distinction as  
24 commander of the 36th (T-Patch) Division until the reorganization  
25 of the Texas Army National Guard in 1968; at that time, he became  
26 commander of the Arrowhead Emergency Operations Headquarters, and  
27 he then assumed command of Headquarters Augmentation, State HQ and

1 HQ Detachment; he was appointed commander of Base Units Command in  
2 1971 and was promoted to the rank of Brevet Lieutenant General on  
3 his retirement from the Texas National Guard on October 31, 1973;  
4 having benefited the guard in myriad capacities throughout his  
5 career, he continued to demonstrate his dedication as a member of  
6 the National Guard Association of Texas and as a member of the Texas  
7 Guard Legislative Task Force; and

8 WHEREAS, Following his discharge from active duty, General  
9 Simpson resumed the practice of law in Amarillo with the firm of  
10 Simpson, Clayton, and Fullingim and, over time, became a mentor for  
11 many young lawyers; he also took a leadership role in the community  
12 and served as a director of the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce,  
13 president of the Amarillo Tri-State Fair Association, director of  
14 the Potter-Randall County Child Welfare Society, chair of the  
15 Greater Amarillo Chapter of the American National Red Cross, and  
16 president of the American Legion Hanson Post No. 54; additionally,  
17 he was active with the United Way in the 1950s; General Simpson  
18 passed away on August 25, 1999, in Amarillo; and

19 WHEREAS, Lieutenant General Everett Selden Simpson served  
20 his country and his state with incomparable devotion, and during  
21 World War II, he risked his life on numerous occasions to save the  
22 lives of his fellow soldiers and advance their mission; his  
23 remarkable heroism is most assuredly deserving of this state's  
24 supreme military award; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
26 hereby direct the governor of the State of Texas to posthumously  
27 award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Lieutenant General

H.C.R. No. 145

1 (Brevet) Everett Selden Simpson in recognition of his valiant  
2 actions in World War II.