

By: Pickett

H.C.R. No. 163

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, For well over a century, Americans have set aside a
2 time to honor those members of its military forces who have died in
3 this country's service; and

4 WHEREAS, Originally called Decoration Day, this special
5 remembrance was first observed in 1868, when flowers were placed on
6 the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers, and by the end of the
7 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30
8 throughout the nation; in 1971, Congress designated the last Monday
9 in May as Memorial Day; and

10 WHEREAS, Legions of Americans have stepped forward to serve
11 their country in times of conflict, and more than a million have
12 made the ultimate sacrifice; they "gave the last full measure of
13 devotion" on their native soil, in foreign lands, and on seas around
14 the world, and on this Memorial Day, as Texans pause to remember, we
15 commemorate with fresh sorrow all Texans who have been killed in
16 combat; and

17 WHEREAS, Second only to the Vietnam War as the longest
18 sustained U.S. military operation in history, the Global War on
19 Terrorism has claimed the lives of nearly 6,000 American service
20 members, including more than 500 Texans; today we expressly want to
21 pay homage to those brave fallen soldiers and the families they left
22 behind; and

23 WHEREAS, It is a grateful nation that reflects on our
24 American heritage and recognizes the extreme sacrifices made by all

1 who serve in the armed forces; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED by the 82nd Texas Legislature, That the Senate and
3 House of Representatives of the State of Texas meet in a joint
4 memorial session in the Hall of the House of Representatives on
5 Saturday, May 28, 2011, at 11 a.m., for the Fallen Heroes Memorial
6 Service to pay tribute to all who have died in the service of this
7 country and to honor especially the Texans killed while serving in
8 the Global War on Terrorism; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas,
10 all Texas state officials, and the family members of those killed in
11 the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan be, and hereby are, invited to
12 attend the joint memorial session; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby commemorate Memorial Day 2011 and express deep appreciation
15 to all the men and women who have served our great country.