

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 175

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Boot Campaign has made a positive difference in
2 the lives of numerous United States active duty service members and
3 veterans; and

4 WHEREAS, This charitable initiative was founded by Texas
5 residents Ginger Giles, Leigh Ann Ranslem, Sherri Reuland, Mariae
6 Bui, and Heather Fordham, who wanted to provide their fellow
7 citizens with a means to show support for the military; the five
8 women, who call themselves the "Boot Girls," were inspired to
9 undertake the project after reading *Lone Survivor*, the nonfiction
10 account of courageous Navy SEAL and Navy Cross honoree Marcus
11 Luttrell; and

12 WHEREAS, The campaign originated as a promotion for a country
13 music concert to benefit the Military Warriors Support Foundation,
14 which offers employment, education, housing, and financial
15 assistance to veterans; the musicians posed for photographs wearing
16 combat boots to symbolize their solidarity with the troops, and the
17 resulting images were recognized for their powerful message; and

18 WHEREAS, Adopting a national focus, the Boot Campaign soon
19 partnered with a leading military boot manufacturer to sell combat
20 boots to civilians, donating the proceeds to foundations that aid
21 returning service members and their families; many politicians and
22 celebrities have posed for photographs to promote the project,
23 including Governor Rick Perry and members of the Houston Astros and
24 Dallas Cowboys; and

1 WHEREAS, The Boot Campaign works with the Lone Survivor
2 Foundation, helping to fund the construction of a veterans ranch
3 that will feature rehabilitation and wellness facilities as well as
4 programs for children and surviving families; money raised by the
5 Boot Campaign also helps those suffering from post-traumatic stress
6 disorder; and

7 WHEREAS, All American citizens owe a profound debt of
8 gratitude to the present and former members of the United States
9 armed forces, and the Boot Campaign is helping these brave men and
10 women to receive the assistance and appreciation they so richly
11 deserve; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
13 Legislature hereby honor the Boot Campaign and its worthy efforts
14 to encourage support for our active duty and returning service
15 members; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
18 Texas House of Representatives.