

By: Taylor of Collin

H.R. No. 1266

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, April 2011 marks the eighth anniversary of the fall
2 of Baghdad to coalition troops, and this milestone provides a
3 fitting occasion to recognize the hundreds of thousands of U.S.
4 military personnel who helped to liberate Iraq from the tyranny of
5 Saddam Hussein and who have fought to help stabilize that country in
6 the difficult years that have followed; and

7 WHEREAS, Texans have long been supportive of all who serve in
8 the United States armed forces, and many of its own sons and
9 daughters have answered their country's call; as of January 2011,
10 more than 29,000 Texans in the active duty branches were serving in
11 Operation New Dawn, centered on Iraq, and Operation Enduring
12 Freedom, centered on Afghanistan; among these troops were more than
13 18,000 soldiers, over 4,000 airmen and airwomen, more than 3,500
14 sailors, and over 2,500 marines, in addition to approximately 3,000
15 members of the reserves; and

16 WHEREAS, Texas currently boasts the second-largest
17 population of veterans in the nation, with more than 1.7 million
18 vets residing in the Lone Star State; it is estimated that this
19 number includes over 111,000 veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom
20 and Enduring Freedom; and

21 WHEREAS, To date, 19 Texans who have served in Iraq have been
22 accorded the Silver Star, the third-highest award for gallantry in
23 action, and one soldier has been awarded the Distinguished Service
24 Cross, the army's second-highest decoration for valor; and

1 WHEREAS, More than 4,000 servicemen and servicewomen have
2 given their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and its successor,
3 Operation New Dawn, and approximately 32,000 U.S. troops have been
4 wounded; the number of Texans who have died in the Iraq and
5 Afghanistan operations together currently stands at more than 520;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, America's mission overseas has demanded fortitude,
8 skill, and determination on the part of its military personnel, and
9 they have performed with exemplary dedication and professionalism;
10 their service stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of
11 this nation's armed forces; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to all Texans who have served in
14 Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn and extend to them profound
15 appreciation for their selfless endeavors in this country's behalf.