

By: Bonnen

H.R. No. 1453

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The athletic achievements and military service of
2 Army Specialist Brad Thomas of Jones Creek were deservedly honored
3 on March 29, 2011, when he became the first person from Brazosport
4 High School to have his baseball jersey retired; and

5 WHEREAS, School officials and coaches chose Specialist
6 Thomas for this honor because he embodies the qualities they
7 promote in their sports programs; during his years in school, he was
8 an outstanding athlete and team player as well as a dedicated
9 scholar and a young man of exemplary character; chosen as the most
10 valuable player on the 2004 Brazosport team, he was widely
11 respected on the field and in the halls of his school; moreover,
12 this admirable young man has continued to demonstrate determination
13 and courage in the years since his graduation while facing a number
14 of significant challenges; and

15 WHEREAS, After earning his diploma, Mr. Thomas initially
16 accepted an offer to study and play football at Texas Lutheran
17 University, but he decided to leave school a year and a half later
18 in order to serve his nation in the United States Army; in making
19 his decision, he was inspired by the example of his best friend,
20 Cody Ford, who had opted to join the military; the two had grown up
21 together and shared an interest in the armed forces, and they had
22 long discussed their mutual dream of enlisting; and

23 WHEREAS, Turning down an initial assignment as a medic,
24 Specialist Thomas requested to be assigned to the infantry; while

1 completing training, he suffered an immeasurable loss when he
2 learned that Mr. Ford had been killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in
3 December 2006; though deeply saddened, he found further motivation
4 in the tragic turn of events, and he told his friend's family that
5 the death had made him even more determined to serve in combat so
6 that he could take up the mission that Mr. Ford had begun; and

7 WHEREAS, Specialist Thomas left for a 15-month deployment to
8 Iraq in November 2007, expressing his wholehearted belief in his
9 mission; he also found that the lessons about teamwork that he had
10 learned in high school athletics translated well to the combat
11 squads in which he worked; and

12 WHEREAS, Only months into his mission, this valiant Texan was
13 injured by a roadside bomb in January 2008, suffering a traumatic
14 brain injury that has required him to remain in a Florida hospital;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The devoted family of Specialist Thomas has remained
17 by his side, living through a roller coaster of emotions with his
18 gains and setbacks, and maintaining their hope that he will one day
19 return to Texas; that dream is shared by the residents of southern
20 Brazoria County, who have continued an outpouring of love and
21 support for the Thomas family for more than three years, waiting for
22 this heroic soldier to come home; and

23 WHEREAS, The retiring of the baseball jersey that Brad Thomas
24 wore for Brazosport High is a fitting tribute to a young man who has
25 distinguished himself as a star athlete and as an American hero and
26 whose achievements will remain a source of inspiration for area
27 residents for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
2 Legislature hereby commend Brad Thomas on his military service,
3 congratulate him on becoming the first baseball player from
4 Brazosport High School to have his jersey retired, and extend to him
5 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for Specialist Thomas as an expression of high regard by
8 the Texas House of Representatives.