

By: Carter

H.R. No. 1471

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Hess of Round Rock has  
2 compiled an exceptional record of achievement in a career that has  
3 consistently been devoted to the public interest; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on April 19, 1952, in Philadelphia,  
5 Pennsylvania, Colonel Hess was raised in New Jersey, near Joint  
6 Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, where his father was stationed with the  
7 U.S. Air Force; as a young man, he worked in maintenance at Fort Dix  
8 to help pay his tuition at Burlington County Community College;  
9 after receiving an associate's degree in environmental science, he  
10 moved to San Antonio in 1972 to attend Trinity University, where he  
11 majored in history and was a member of the ROTC; he graduated in  
12 1974 with a bachelor of arts degree and began his military career  
13 with his commission as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army; and

14           WHEREAS, Over the next 20 years, Colonel Hess served at bases  
15 all across the globe; his first assignment was as an armor and  
16 infantry weapons platoon leader with the 9th Infantry at Camp  
17 Casey, Korea, and he subsequently served with the 10th Cavalry at  
18 Fort Carson, Colorado, and in Wiesbaden, Germany; after completing  
19 the Chemical Officer Advanced Course at Aberdeen Proving Ground in  
20 Maryland, he worked with the nuclear directorate of the Combined  
21 Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; during his time at Fort  
22 Leavenworth, he contributed to the development of the army's  
23 doctrine for responding to a tactical nuclear war and helped  
24 establish a school to train military officers in nuclear warfare;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Colonel Hess then served as a chemical officer at  
3 Fort Richardson, Alaska, and in Maastricht, Netherlands; while  
4 stationed at Fort Hood as a chemical officer from 1992 until his  
5 retirement in 1994, he had charge of more than 400 chemical warfare  
6 specialists who were responsible for defending over 15,000 soldiers  
7 with the 2nd Armored Division from the threat of chemical,  
8 biological, radiological, and nuclear attack; and

9 WHEREAS, After retiring from the army, Colonel Hess began  
10 working as an environmental strategic planner and manager with the  
11 Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, where his  
12 leadership skills and military training were highly valued; in  
13 2003, he accepted the challenge of helping to launch a new state  
14 agency, the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists; named  
15 executive director of the TBPG, he devoted countless hours to  
16 getting the agency up and running and to ensuring that more than  
17 6,700 applications for a license to practice geoscience in the  
18 state were accurately processed; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2006, Colonel Hess again answered his nation's  
20 call when he returned to active duty with the army; this esteemed  
21 officer served two tours of duty in Iraq and worked extensively with  
22 the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina;  
23 he completed his service and reentered civilian life in July 2010,  
24 returning to his position as head of the TBPG; and

25 WHEREAS, A graduate of the Command and General Staff College,  
26 Michael Hess also holds a master's degree in management from  
27 Webster University and a master's degree in history from the

1 University of Kansas; in 2003 he completed a master's degree in  
2 education administration at Texas State University; and

3 WHEREAS, Among the many decorations and awards conferred on  
4 Colonel Hess by the army are the Defense Meritorious Service Medal,  
5 three Army Commendation Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals,  
6 the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and two Army Achievement  
7 Medals; moreover, for his service with the Texas Military Forces,  
8 he has received two State of Texas Lone Star Distinguished Service  
9 Medals; and

10 WHEREAS, Colonel Hess is the proud father of a daughter,  
11 Lindsey Shoob, and a son, Captain Michael Hess, who is currently  
12 deployed in Afghanistan on his third combat tour; he has also been  
13 blessed with a grandchild, Jordan; and

14 WHEREAS, Throughout his distinguished career, Lieutenant  
15 Colonel Michael D. Hess has contributed immeasurably to advancing  
16 the mission of every organization of which he has been a part, and  
17 his exemplary efforts in behalf of this state and nation are indeed  
18 deserving of his fellow citizens' deep respect and gratitude; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
21 Legislature hereby honor Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Hess for his  
22 outstanding public service and extend to him sincere best wishes  
23 for continued success in all his endeavors; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for Lieutenant Colonel Hess as an expression of high  
26 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.