

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 1971

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of the United States owe an incalculable
2 debt to the nation's military personnel, who have served valiantly
3 throughout this country's history and who have sacrificed so much
4 in this country's behalf; and

5 WHEREAS, When our veterans need compensation for illnesses or
6 disabilities incurred as a result of their service, it is incumbent
7 on our government to respond as expeditiously as possible;
8 currently, however, the United States Department of Veterans
9 Affairs is facing a substantial backlog of disability claims, and
10 the amount of time that it takes to process these claims has risen
11 significantly; and

12 WHEREAS, The total number of pending claims for disability
13 compensation increased from 448,000 in April 2010 to 756,000 in
14 April 2011; during that same period, the number of claims taking
15 longer than four months to complete more than doubled, rising from
16 200,000 to 450,000; on average, it now takes six months to process a
17 claim for compensation related to an illness or injury, and it is
18 estimated that such cases will take an average of eight months to
19 complete in 2012; and

20 WHEREAS, Veterans of the U.S. armed forces have earned the
21 infinite gratitude of all Americans for their steadfast courage and
22 devotion to duty, and they are deserving of swift assistance in
23 their time of need; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas

1 Legislature hereby urge the nation's commander in chief, the
2 executive branch of the federal government, and the United States
3 Congress to assign top priority to alleviating the backlog of
4 disability claims by U.S. veterans; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
6 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
7 the secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
8 to the president of the Senate and speaker of the House of
9 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
10 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
11 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
12 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.