

By: Pickett

H.R. No. 2560

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Jay T. Kimbrough rendered exemplary service to this
2 country as a member of the United States Marine Corps during the
3 Vietnam War, and in honor of the 3,416 Texans who died in that
4 conflict, he is leading a ceremonial procession down Congress
5 Avenue in Austin on October 15, 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Dallas in 1947, Jay Kimbrough grew up in the
7 South Oak Cliff area; he accumulated enough credits to graduate
8 from high school a semester early and enlisted in the Marine Corps
9 in January 1966; after completing boot camp in San Diego, he arrived
10 in Vietnam in August 1966 and was assigned to Company A, 1st
11 Battalion, 3rd Marines; and

12 WHEREAS, On May 10, 1967, during Operation UNION 1, Lance
13 Corporal Kimbrough's platoon was sent to reinforce members of the
14 5th Marines who were heavily engaged with a large force of Viet Cong
15 and North Vietnamese Army troops; the helicopter Corporal Kimbrough
16 was riding in was shot down, and he was severely wounded; he and his
17 fellow survivors remained under intense small arms and automatic
18 weapons fire and were unable to move; and

19 WHEREAS, The platoon sergeant, Jimmie L. West, determined the
20 location of the helicopter and moved out through heavy enemy fire
21 until he reached Corporal Kimbrough and the other survivors;
22 Sergeant West then covered them on the way back, delivering
23 suppressive fire as he brought them to safety; and

24 WHEREAS, Corporal Kimbrough was flown to the hospital ship,

1 USS *Sanctuary*, for treatment, while Operation UNION 1 continued; on
2 May 12, Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines engaged a huge North
3 Vietnamese Army force and suffered high casualties, including
4 Cloyde Pinson, Jr., one of Jay Kimbrough's closest friends from
5 Dallas; and

6 WHEREAS, Corporal Kimbrough was medically evacuated to the
7 Corpus Christi Naval Air Station Hospital and was a patient there
8 for his remaining eight months in service; and

9 WHEREAS, Among the decorations conferred on Mr. Kimbrough are
10 the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the
11 Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Presidential Unit Citations, the
12 Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, the Purple Heart, and the
13 Rifle Sharpshooter; and

14 WHEREAS, Discharged from the Marine Corps on February 23,
15 1968, Corporal Kimbrough returned to his hometown, where he
16 attended Southern Methodist University with the help of the GI
17 Bill; after graduating with a bachelor's degree in business
18 administration, he earned a juris doctorate from South Texas
19 College of Law; he subsequently served in the United States Navy
20 Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1978 to 1984, attaining the
21 rank of lieutenant commander; he has since continued his dedication
22 to public service through his notable work for the State of Texas;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Jay Kimbrough, like many Vietnam War veterans, met
25 with resistance and ingratitude for his military service after
26 returning to the United States; he has devoted much of his life to
27 ensuring that the courage and patriotism of his friend Cloyde

1 Pinson and the many other fallen Texas heroes are not forgotten by
2 future generations; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
4 Legislature hereby honor Jay T. Kimbrough for his distinguished
5 military service and commend him for his ongoing efforts to
6 commemorate those Texans who made the ultimate sacrifice in
7 Vietnam; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That Mr. Kimbrough be presented with the flags
9 flown over the Texas Capitol on October 15, 2011, as an expression
10 of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.