

By: Hinojosa, et al.

S.C.R. No. 37

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The exemplary acts of bravery and distinguished
3 service rendered by the members of the United States military are
4 honored in a variety of ways, but it is the Purple Heart that speaks
5 most eloquently to the essential sacrifices that are often required
6 of those who fight for our nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the
8 president of the United States to any member of the armed forces who
9 is wounded or killed by the enemy in combat operations; and

10 WHEREAS, This medal dates to the early years of our nation,
11 having originally been authorized by General George Washington, on
12 August 7, 1782, to recognize members of the Continental Army during
13 the Revolutionary War; known as the Badge of Military Merit, the
14 award created by General Washington entitled recipients to wear a
15 heart-shaped figure of purple cloth as a symbol of their exemplary
16 actions; and

17 WHEREAS, When reestablished in 1932, the Purple Heart was
18 initially a commendation for members of the United States Army and
19 United States Army Air Corps and was retroactively awarded to
20 soldiers in previous conflicts; in 1942, its scope was broadened to
21 include the members of all branches of the military who had been
22 killed or wounded in action, and the National Purple Heart Hall of
23 Honor estimates that 1.7 million Americans have received the medal
24 through the years; and

1 WHEREAS, In momentous conflicts that range from the Civil War
2 through the present engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan, valiant
3 men and women have stepped into harm's way to defend our country,
4 and those who paid with their lives or who were wounded in combat
5 are deservedly honored by being designated recipients of the Purple
6 Heart; and

7 WHEREAS, These courageous individuals are owed a debt of
8 remembrance by all who have benefited from their service, and it is
9 indeed appropriate that their heroism be annually honored by the
10 citizens of Texas on August 7, the anniversary of the date on which
11 General Washington established the Badge of Military Merit; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby designate August 7 as Purple Heart Day and urge all Texans to
15 reflect on the extraordinary contributions made by the past and
16 present members of the United States armed forces; and, be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of
19 Subsection (d), Section 391.004, Government Code, the designation
20 expires on the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is
21 passed by the legislature.