

By: Hinojosa

S.C.R. No. 37

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

24           WHEREAS, In momentous conflicts that range from the Civil War

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

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

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

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