

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 644**

**WHEREAS,** The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Lieutenant Michael E. Thornton for his exemplary service to the nation as a member of the United States Navy during the Vietnam War; and

**WHEREAS,** The Vietnam War was one of the longest military conflicts in United States history; more than three million Americans served in Southeast Asia during the war, with more than 58,000 making the ultimate sacrifice, including more than 3,400 Texans; and

**WHEREAS,** Lieutenant Thornton distinguished himself during this conflict through his exemplary courage; while serving as a petty officer, he exhibited conspicuous bravery when his patrol came under heavy attack and he returned through a hail of gunfire to a previous position to extract a seriously wounded officer and then towed him two hours downriver to safety; he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry and intrepid action that enabled the safe evacuation of his entire team; and

**WHEREAS,** The men and women who served the nation during the Vietnam War embodied the highest standards of courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty, and Lieutenant Thornton's heroic actions set a lasting example that will live forever in the annals of American history; and

**WHEREAS,** It is truly fitting that this brave man be recognized for his patriotism and his service on behalf of the nation as Texans across the state observe Vietnam Veterans Day; now, therefore, be it

S.R. No. 644

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby commend Lieutenant Michael E. Thornton on his extraordinary service to the nation during the Vietnam War and extend to him best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of gratitude and high regard from the Texas Senate.

Van de Putte

Birdwell	Harris	Rodriguez
Carona	Hegar	Seliger
Davis	Hinojosa	Shapiro
Deuell	Huffman	Uresti
Duncan	Jackson	Watson
Ellis	Lucio	Wentworth
Eltife	Nelson	West
Estes	Nichols	Whitmire
Fraser	Ogden	Williams
Gallegos	Patrick	Zaffirini

Dewhurst, President of the Senate

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 29, 2011.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate