

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1142

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association on the occasion of its annual reunion, which is being held June 22 through 26, 2011, in San Antonio; and

**WHEREAS**, The 173rd Airborne Brigade Association hosts a reunion each year to promote the camaraderie that can only be found among combat veterans; these special events provide not only a place to share memories and fellowship, but to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and to support their Gold Star families; and

**WHEREAS**, Originally made up of veterans of the Vietnam War, the association has opened its membership to those who have served since the 173rd Airborne Brigade was reactivated in 2000, welcoming those who have played such a vital role in our nation's safety in Iraq and Afghanistan and those who still serve; and

**WHEREAS**, During the Vietnam War, the brigade suffered some 1,800 casualties over the course of seven years of combat while its members amassed more than 6,000 Purple Hearts, 1,736 Silver Stars, 46 Distinguished Service Crosses, and 13 Medals of Honor; the reactivated 173rd Airborne Brigade, currently in Afghanistan, has served four combat tours, has been honored with 34 Silver Stars and a Medal of Honor, and has absorbed more casualties since September 11, 2001, than any other brigade; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to its yearly reunion, the association supports veterans and other members through numerous programs, including a Wounded Warrior Weekend Fishing Program, a scholarship program, and a program to send packages and letters to soldiers overseas; it is truly deserving of recognition for its outstanding work on behalf of those who protect our nation's security and safety; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby commend the members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association on their exemplary service to the nation and extend to them best wishes for a memorable 2011 reunion; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for this exemplary organization as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Van de Putte

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 23, 2011.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate