

By: Smith

H.R. No. 643

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ken Pridgeon of Baytown has turned his artistic
2 talent to a patriotic purpose, and his efforts have touched the
3 lives of many Texas families; and

4 WHEREAS, Following a decade of service with the U.S. Air
5 Force, Mr. Pridgeon worked as a billboard painter before opening
6 his own business, KTD Signs; nicknamed "the Dauber" for his
7 distinctive style, he also took up fine arts painting in his free
8 time, producing landscapes, portraits, murals, and more; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2005, the local community lost one of its own when
10 Private First Class Wesley Riggs of the U.S. Army was killed during
11 a tour of duty in Iraq; to pay tribute to the young man's sacrifice,
12 Mr. Pridgeon painted his portrait as part of a benefit to fund a
13 scholarship in the soldier's honor; and

14 WHEREAS, The artist was soon inspired to similarly recognize
15 other fallen service members from across the Lone Star State,
16 providing their family members with free prints of the finished
17 paintings; he is also sharing his artwork with the general public
18 through the Portrait of a Warrior Memorial Art Gallery in Baytown,
19 where visitors can view the pictures and express their appreciation
20 for the nation's military heroes; he ultimately hopes to paint
21 every member of the armed forces from Texas who has been killed in
22 Iraq and Afghanistan; and

23 WHEREAS, Ken Pridgeon has created a touching memorial to
24 Texans who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and his work will help

1 to ensure that these courageous men and women will forever be
2 remembered for their valiant service; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
4 Legislature hereby commend Ken Pridgeon for his ongoing efforts to
5 paint portraits of fallen service members from the Lone Star State
6 and that he be extended sincere best wishes for continued success
7 with this admirable project; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Mr. Pridgeon as an expression of high regard by the
10 Texas House of Representatives.