

By: Bonnen of Galveston

H.R. No. 937

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Ray Eric Santos of Clear Lake has served our  
2 nation with great distinction as a member of the United States Navy  
3 and Navy Reserve, and he contributes significantly to his community  
4 as a medical practitioner; and

5           WHEREAS, A board-certified orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Santos  
6 graduated from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
7 School of Medicine in 1986 and completed an orthopedic residency  
8 program at The University of Texas Medical Branch Hospitals in  
9 1991; he went on to participate in a one-year fellowship in spine  
10 surgery in San Antonio and joined the National Naval Medical Center  
11 in Bethesda, Maryland, on active duty as chief of spine surgery; and

12           WHEREAS, Dr. Santos transferred to the navy reserve in 1995  
13 and became an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at The  
14 University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; for three years,  
15 he served with the 4th Air Naval Gunfire and Liaison Company of the  
16 U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in West Palm Beach, Florida, and he  
17 completed airborne training and graduated with distinction from the  
18 navy's diving medical officer course; and

19           WHEREAS, In 1998, Dr. Santos established a private practice  
20 in Clear Lake, but he continued to play a vital role in the reserve;  
21 he was the undersea medical officer for NR Naval Special Warfare  
22 Unit Two, based in Colts Neck, New Jersey, and subsequently the  
23 battalion surgeon for the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion of the  
24 marine corps in San Antonio; and

1           WHEREAS, Operation Iraqi Freedom occasioned a recall to  
2 active duty in February 2003, and Dr. Santos deployed to Iraq as  
3 battalion surgeon for the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, which  
4 participated in combat operations as part of the 1st Marine  
5 Expeditionary Force; he resumed his practice the following  
6 September and continued to serve in the navy reserve as the  
7 battalion surgeon for the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion and for the  
8 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion of the marine corps in Tampa; and

9           WHEREAS, In October 2010, while assigned to the 1st  
10 Battalion, 23rd Marines, as the battalion surgeon and officer in  
11 charge of the naval detachment, Dr. Santos was again recalled to  
12 active duty; he deployed for seven months to Helmand Province in  
13 Afghanistan, where his battalion was involved in combat operations  
14 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom under Regional Command  
15 Southwest, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force; Dr. Santos coordinated  
16 the medical care for more than 800 marines and sailors and was  
17 involved in supporting medical care throughout the Task Force  
18 Belleau Wood area of operations; and

19           WHEREAS, During his tour of duty in Afghanistan, this  
20 courageous Texan participated in more than 20 classified missions  
21 in remote locations; once, when a Marine in his convoy was  
22 critically injured by an improvised explosive device, Dr. Santos  
23 left his own vehicle and bravely crossed over 50 meters of terrain  
24 not yet cleared of secondary IEDs in order to perform lifesaving  
25 field surgery; he further advanced American goals by helping to  
26 improve relations with local Afghans, who were grateful for the  
27 skilled treatment he provided to the ailing granddaughter of an

1 influential village elder; and

2           WHEREAS, For his meritorious achievements in Afghanistan,  
3 Dr. Santos was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal; his numerous  
4 decorations also include the Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action  
5 Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, three Navy Meritorious Unit  
6 Commendations, and two National Defense Service Medals; and

7           WHEREAS, Dr. Ray Santos has set an inspiring example for  
8 others through his selfless devotion to his country and to the  
9 highest ideals of the medical profession, and it is indeed fitting  
10 that he be recognized at this time; now, therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Ray Eric Santos for his exceptional  
13 service to the United States Navy and Navy Reserve and commend him  
14 for his professional contributions to his community; and, be it  
15 further

16           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for Dr. Santos as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
18 House of Representatives.