

By: White

H.R. No. 1302

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Commander Leif Babin of the U.S. Navy
2 Reserve demonstrated remarkable skill, bravery, and patriotism
3 during his service in Iraq as a U.S. Navy SEAL, and he is truly
4 deserving of special recognition; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Houston, Lieutenant Commander Babin grew
6 up in East Texas and graduated from Monsignor Kelly Catholic High
7 School in Beaumont in 1994; after winning a coveted place at the
8 U.S. Naval Academy, he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering
9 and a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy in 1998; over the next
10 several years, he deployed three times to the Persian Gulf and the
11 western Pacific aboard the USS *Oldendorf* and the USS *Curts*; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2001, Lieutenant Commander Babin fulfilled a
13 longtime dream when he was selected for the Navy SEAL program, and
14 in 2002 he undertook the rigorous training course, graduating with
15 Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) Class 241; and

16 WHEREAS, Between 2004 and 2006, Lieutenant Commander Babin
17 led sniper operations in support of the U.S. Army 1st Infantry
18 Division in Samarra, Iraq, served as ground operations officer for
19 the team guarding five important Iraqi officials, and led a SEAL
20 unit as a platoon commander in some of the heaviest fighting during
21 the Battle of Ramadi; his unit became one of the most highly
22 decorated special operations groups of the Iraq War; and

23 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Commander Babin then served for two years
24 as the primary leadership instructor for BUD/S training,

1 successfully graduating more than 130 SEAL officers and helping to
2 shape the next generation of SEAL leaders; he went on to command a
3 500-person Naval Special Warfare Squadron for a year, during which
4 time he served as operations officer for a special operations task
5 force and directed a successful campaign against Al
6 Qaeda-affiliated terrorists; after returning to Ar Ramadi, Iraq, in
7 2009, he was promoted to executive officer and second-in-command of
8 a SEAL team; and

9 WHEREAS, For his courage and dedication, this outstanding
10 officer earned the Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals,
11 including one with the combat V for leadership under fire, and the
12 Purple Heart; he also holds many Navy Commendation and Navy
13 Achievement Medals; and

14 WHEREAS, After leaving active duty in 2011, Lieutenant
15 Commander Babin cofounded Echelon Front, a crisis management and
16 team-building consultancy that applies the principles of SEAL
17 leadership to the business world; his editorials about military
18 strategy and foreign policy have appeared in the *Wall Street*
19 *Journal* and *National Review*, and he has been a frequent guest on
20 television and radio news programs; he has been a National Security
21 Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and he
22 currently serves on the board of The Little Warriors A Brian Bill
23 Project, which provides outdoor adventure opportunities to the
24 children of Navy SEALs; he continues to serve his nation as an
25 officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve; and

26 WHEREAS, The American military personnel who have
27 distinguished themselves in Iraq and Afghanistan have gained

1 leadership skills that will prove invaluable to this nation in the
2 years ahead, and Lieutenant Commander Leif Babin has demonstrated
3 that he stands among the best of his peers; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
5 Legislature hereby commend Lieutenant Commander Leif Babin for his
6 service to the nation and extend to him sincere best wishes for
7 continued success; and, be it further

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