

By: Allen

H.R. No. 1341

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Jr., a longtime chaplain and  
2 a retired brigadier general in the Texas State Guard, is being  
3 honored by the Wharton community for his many achievements on June  
4 15, 2013; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Wharton, Charles Edwards joined the  
6 U.S. Army in 1966 and served as an infantryman in South Korea; after  
7 completing active duty, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and  
8 continued his education, earning a bachelor's degree from Jarvis  
9 Christian College in 1970 and a master's degree from Christian  
10 Theological Seminary in Indianapolis in 1973; Dr. Edwards received  
11 his commission as a first lieutenant in 1976 and soon entered active  
12 duty again, this time as a chaplain at Fort Lewis, Washington; he  
13 continued to serve as a military chaplain for the next three  
14 decades, holding a wide range of assignments in the regular army, in  
15 the Texas Army National Guard, with which he served from 1979  
16 through the end of 2003, and in the Texas State Guard, with which he  
17 served from 2004 until his retirement in 2007; during his last three  
18 years with the National Guard, Dr. Edwards served as the State Area  
19 Command Chaplain, and during the final months of his military  
20 career, he became the first individual to be appointed Joint Forces  
21 Headquarters Command Chaplain; in that capacity, he oversaw all  
22 chaplains and chaplain assistants in the Texas Army National Guard,  
23 Texas Air National Guard, and Texas State Guard; and

24           WHEREAS, This esteemed gentleman has consistently sought out

1 opportunities to minister to others; between 1968 and 1992, while  
2 carrying out his military duties, he also pastored churches in  
3 Illinois, Indiana, and Texas; moreover, to deepen his skills and  
4 understanding, he embarked on doctoral studies in ministry at  
5 Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, receiving his degree in  
6 1989; and

7         WHEREAS, Active in numerous military associations, he has  
8 served as national chaplain for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the  
9 Disabled Veterans of America, as department chaplain for the  
10 American Legion, and as chief of chaplains for the State Guard  
11 Association of the United States; in recent years, he has further  
12 served as chaplain with the FBI in San Antonio and with the San  
13 Antonio Police Department; and

14         WHEREAS, Dr. Edwards is also founder and CEO of the Edwards  
15 Ministerial Association, which provides support to veterans, law  
16 enforcement personnel, and members of civic organizations and  
17 educational institutions; along with other programs, the  
18 organization awards scholarships to help disabled veterans,  
19 underprivileged students, and seminary students pursue their  
20 education; and

21         WHEREAS, After returning to Texas in 1980, Dr. Edwards worked  
22 at the Travis State School in Austin, where he held the post of  
23 director of human resource development/staff services; he retired  
24 from that position in 1992 and subsequently served as chief of the  
25 chaplain service for the South Texas Veterans Health Care System,  
26 an office he held until 2003; since 2004, he has served as chief  
27 financial officer for a child development center in Houston; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Edwards is the recipient of numerous military  
2 decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service  
3 Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal, as well  
4 as the Texas National Guard Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal,  
5 Outstanding Service Medal, and Adjutant General's Individual  
6 Award; and

7           WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Dr. Edwards has enjoyed the  
8 love and support of his wife of 44 years, the former Felisha  
9 L. Pulliam; the couple have been blessed with a fine family that  
10 includes three children, Charles, Christopher, and Sylvia, and  
11 eight grandchildren; and

12           WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Edwards has committed his life to the  
13 service of others, and his contributions and accomplishments are  
14 indeed worthy of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
16 Legislature hereby commend Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Jr., for his  
17 immeasurable contributions in behalf of his country and his  
18 community and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued  
19 success and happiness; and, be it further

20           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for Dr. Edwards as an expression of high regard by the  
22 Texas House of Representatives.