

By: Wray

H.C.R. No. 85

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established  
2 to recognize gallant and intrepid service by a member of the state  
3 or federal military forces, and U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Chris  
4 Kyle, the most successful sniper in U.S. military history, proved  
5 himself a deserving recipient of this prestigious award; and

6           WHEREAS, Born in Odessa on April 8, 1974, Christopher Scott  
7 Kyle learned patience and marksmanship at an early age; his father  
8 bought him a rifle when he was eight, and he hunted on the family  
9 ranch for pheasant and deer; after high school, he worked as a ranch  
10 hand and a professional rodeo rider until he was injured; despite  
11 the pins in his arm from his rodeo injuries, he actively sought to  
12 serve his nation, and thanks to his grit and determination, he was  
13 accepted into the elite Navy SEALs unit in 1999; and

14           WHEREAS, Chief Petty Officer Kyle served four tours of duty  
15 in Iraq as a member of SEAL Team 3, and he fought in every major  
16 battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom, including engagements in Ramadi,  
17 Fallujah, and Baghdad; working in hot, dirty, and dangerous  
18 conditions, Chief Kyle put himself in harm's way on a daily basis,  
19 setting up his sniper's post in abandoned buildings, sometimes for  
20 as long as five weeks at a time, watching tirelessly through his  
21 scope for enemy combatants and, through his efforts, saving  
22 countless American lives; and

23           WHEREAS, Known by his peers as "the Legend" for his uncanny  
24 skill, Chief Kyle often successfully took long-range shots, and in

1 Sadr City in 2008, after he spotted an insurgent approaching an army  
2 convoy with a rocket launcher, he shot the man from a distance of  
3 2,100 yards, or 1.2 miles; as feared by the enemy as he was  
4 celebrated by his fellow Americans, Chief Kyle was nicknamed  
5 *Al-Shaitan Ramadi*, or "The Devil of Ramadi," by the insurgents, who  
6 put an \$80,000 price on his head; and

7       WHEREAS, Chief Kyle regularly demonstrated conspicuous  
8 gallantry in the thick of combat; during the second battle for  
9 Fallujah in November 2004, two Marines and two journalists were  
10 trapped near a heavily fortified enemy position, and as the Marines  
11 around him provided covering fire, Chief Kyle dashed through enemy  
12 fire, joined the trapped men, and provided suppressing fire to  
13 enable them to escape; then, as he made his own escape, he  
14 discovered one of the Marines wounded in the road, and, with enemy  
15 rounds thudding all around him, he grabbed his wounded comrade by  
16 his body armor and dragged him 50 yards to safety; he then returned  
17 to the battle until the last enemy insurgent was killed; and

18       WHEREAS, Chief Kyle's bravery that day earned him one of his  
19 five Bronze Stars with Valor, and he also received two Silver Stars  
20 along with many other decorations; he was shot twice and survived  
21 six IED explosions, and by the time he left the navy to return to his  
22 family in Texas in 2009, he was credited with the highest number of  
23 confirmed kills in U.S. military history; and

24       WHEREAS, Chief Kyle continued to distinguish himself in  
25 civilian life, running a security training company and publishing a  
26 best-selling combat memoir, which inspired an award-winning motion  
27 picture; he worked with the FITCO Cares Foundation to provide

1 support to disabled veterans, and, tragically, he died while trying  
2 to help another veteran; such was the respect and admiration he had  
3 earned from his fellow Texans that his funeral procession from  
4 Midlothian to Austin stretched for more than 200 miles, one of the  
5 longest memorial processions in American history; and

6 WHEREAS, Chris Kyle repeatedly risked his life to save the  
7 lives of his fellow soldiers and to advance their mission, and for  
8 his remarkable heroism he is most assuredly deserving of this  
9 state's supreme military award; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 hereby direct the governor of the State of Texas to posthumously  
12 award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Christopher Scott  
13 Kyle in recognition of his valiant service during Operation Iraqi  
14 Freedom.