

By: Price

H.R. No. 47

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Every Memorial Day, millions of citizens across  
2 Texas and the nation gather to remember those heroic men and women  
3 in uniform who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our  
4 country; and

5           WHEREAS, Originally known as Decoration Day for the practice  
6 of decorating the graves of soldiers with flowers once a year, this  
7 holiday began after the Civil War as a remembrance of those who had  
8 died on both sides of the conflict; celebrated on May 30 in  
9 subsequent decades, the holiday came to be known as Memorial Day, a  
10 day to honor all of the country's fallen, in all of its wars; since  
11 the early 1970s, the day has been observed on the final Monday in  
12 May; and

13           WHEREAS, The nation's most solemn Memorial Day ceremony  
14 occurs in Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown  
15 Soldier, where the remains of unidentified Americans from World War  
16 I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War are interred in  
17 a marble monument and in the adjacent plaza; accompanied by honor  
18 guards from all branches of the military, the president of the  
19 United States traditionally lays a wreath at the tomb, and the  
20 ceremony is further solemnized by the sounding of "Taps," the  
21 haunting bugle call that has been performed at military funerals  
22 and memorials since the Civil War; and

23           WHEREAS, At the same time, in cities large and small across  
24 the nation, veterans and their fellow citizens gather in cemeteries

1 and other public places to remember fallen comrades and to pay  
2 tribute to those who died to protect our liberty; these ceremonies  
3 are also graced by the stirring echoes of "Taps," and by tradition,  
4 the United States flag is briskly raised to full staff at the  
5 beginning of the day and then lowered slowly to half staff, where it  
6 remains until noon, when it is raised to full staff again; and

7       WHEREAS, The toll of freedom is high; in the years since the  
8 founding of our republic, more than 800,000 American military  
9 personnel have died in battle, and each year, on Memorial Day,  
10 Americans gather to pay tribute to those courageous men and women  
11 who, in the words of President Abraham Lincoln, gave the last full  
12 measure of devotion; now, therefore, be it

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby recognize Memorial Day 2016 in solemn  
15 commemoration of all those who have died in the service of the  
16 nation.