

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, U.S. Army Master Sergeant Mike C. Peña of Newgulf
2 gave his life to save his fellow soldiers during the Korean War, and
3 his heroism was posthumously recognized with the bestowal of a
4 Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on November 6, 1924, Mike Peña was the son of
6 Mexican immigrants Miguel and Maria Peña; in 1940, two months shy of
7 his 16th birthday, he enlisted in the army in Houston after
8 misrepresenting his age to recruiters; he was assigned to the 5th
9 Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, and received training at
10 Fort Clark in Brackettville and Fort Bliss in El Paso; just a year
11 after his induction into the service, the Japanese surprise attack
12 on Pearl Harbor precipitated the United States' entry into World
13 War II; and

14 WHEREAS, Deployed to the Pacific theater in 1943, Sergeant
15 Peña fought to liberate the Philippines from Japanese forces and
16 later took part in the occupation of Japan with members of his
17 division; he received an honorable discharge on October 3, 1945,
18 and reenlisted the same day; a month earlier, on September 5, he had
19 married his sweetheart, the former Aurora Lola Urenda, and their
20 life together would be enriched by the birth of two sons, Michael
21 David and Frederick William; for a time, the family resided at Camp
22 McGill in occupied Japan before moving to Camp Carson in Colorado;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, In late June 1950, the U.S. military was again

1 called upon when soldiers from communist North Korea invaded South
2 Korea; Sergeant Peña volunteered to return to action, rejoining the
3 5th Cavalry Regiment, and participated in an amphibious landing at
4 P'ohang-dong, Korea, in July 1950; the 1st Cavalry Division was
5 ordered to defend a 35-mile sector along the Nakdong River, which
6 became the scene of intense fighting as enemy combatants pushed
7 from the north; and

8 WHEREAS, On September 4, 1950, Sergeant Peña and his platoon
9 were posted near Waegwan, when a North Korean Army battalion
10 emerged only yards away, having advanced under the shroud of
11 darkness and mist; the platoon opened fire but was caught off-guard
12 by the attack and was forced to withdraw; Sergeant Peña swiftly
13 rallied his troops and led them in a counterattack that succeeded in
14 regaining their lost ground; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Peña and his men then established a
16 defensive perimeter and attempted to repel the North Koreans'
17 repeated assaults, but the enemy enjoyed an overwhelming numerical
18 advantage; when the platoon's ammunition supply began to dwindle,
19 Sergeant Peña commanded his men to fall back and seized a machine
20 gun to provide cover for the retreating troops; making a heroic
21 stand, he held back the enemy singlehandedly until the early
22 morning hours, when his position was overrun and he was fatally
23 wounded; he died at the age of 25, on the date of his fifth wedding
24 anniversary; and

25 WHEREAS, The outstanding service that Sergeant Peña rendered
26 over the course of his military career brought him numerous
27 decorations and awards, including the Distinguished Service Cross,

1 which was conferred posthumously, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple
2 Heart with two oak leaf clusters, and the Army Good Conduct Medal
3 with bronze clasp and two loops; Sergeant Peña was buried with full
4 military honors at Cedarvale Cemetery in Bay City; and

5 WHEREAS, For his extraordinary gallantry and immeasurable
6 sacrifice, Americans owe Master Sergeant Mike C. Peña a debt that
7 the passage of time can never diminish; his actions represent the
8 proudest tradition of service to country, and he is indeed
9 deserving of our nation's supreme award for valor; now, therefore,
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the posthumous presentation of the
13 Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Mike C. Peña; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Master
17 Sergeant Mike C. Peña.

Stephenson
Anderson of McLennan
Israel
Keough
King of Uvalde
Miller of Fort Bend
Spitzer

Straus	Guerra	Otto
Allen	Guillen	Paddie
Alonzo	Gutierrez	Parker
Alvarado	Harless	Paul
Anchia	Hernandez	Peña
Anderson of Dallas	Herrero	Phelan
Anderson of McLennan	Howard	Phillips
Ashby	Huberty	Pickett
Aycock	Hughes	Price
Bell	Hunter	Raney
Blanco	Isaac	Raymond
Bohac	Israel	Reynolds
Bonnen of Brazoria	Johnson	Riddle
Bonnen of Galveston	Kacal	Rinaldi
Burkett	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Burns	Keough	Rodriguez of Travis
Burrows	King of Hemphill	Romero, Jr.
Button	King of Parker	Rose
Canales	King of Taylor	Sanford
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Schaefer
Clardy	Klick	Schofield
Coleman	Koop	Shaheen
Collier	Krause	Sheets
Cook	Kuempel	Sheffield
Craddick	Landgraf	Simmons
Crownover	Larson	Simpson
Dale	Laubenberg	Smith
Darby	Leach	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Spitzer
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Springer
Deshotel	Lucio III	Stephenson
Dukes	Márquez	Stickland
Dutton	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Elkins	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Faircloth	McClendon	Tinderholt
Fallon	Menéndez	Turner of Collin
Farias	Metcalf	Turner of Harris
Farney	Meyer	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	VanDeaver
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villalba
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White of Bell
Galindo	Muñoz, Jr.	White of Tyler
Geren	Murphy	Workman
Giddings	Murr	Wray
Goldman	Naishtat	Wu
Gonzales	Nevárez	Zedler
González	Oliveira	Zerwas

H.R. No. 96

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 96 was adopted by the House on February 19, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House