

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 817

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Eugene Gutierrez Jr. of McAllen was presented with
2 the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the nation's highest civilian
3 awards, at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on February 3, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Gene Gutierrez answered his nation's call to duty by
5 enlisting in the United States Army in 1941, and the following year,
6 he volunteered as a paratrooper in the First Special Service Force;
7 commonly known as the "Devil's Brigade," this 1,800-member unit was
8 composed of elite American and Canadian soldiers who specialized in
9 hand-to-hand combat and mountain warfare; and

10 WHEREAS, The covert military outfit played a crucial role at
11 the height of World War II and proved especially effective at
12 combating Axis forces during fighting in Italy; Mr. Gutierrez was
13 among the members of the unit who took part in operations against
14 the Germans near Anzio and helped liberate Rome from fascist
15 control in June 1944; before being disbanded at the end of that
16 year, the brigade was responsible for capturing more than 30,000
17 prisoners, and its legacy was later recognized with five U.S.
18 campaign stars and eight Canadian battle honors; and

19 WHEREAS, After returning to civilian life, Mr. Gutierrez
20 graduated with two degrees from Oklahoma State University, and in
21 1950 he settled in McAllen; there, he enjoyed a fulfilling career in
22 education with the McAllen Independent School District, becoming
23 the city's first Hispanic principal and later serving as
24 superintendent; he retired as principal of Lincoln Middle School in

1 1980; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, Mr. Gutierrez continues to be an active
3 member of his community through his efforts as a parishioner at Our
4 Lady of Sorrows Church and as a member of the Serra Club; in all of
5 his endeavors, this esteemed Texan is blessed with the love and
6 support of his wife of 62 years, Penny, and he takes great pride in
7 his three children and four grandchildren; in addition to receiving
8 the Congressional Gold Medal, he was honored for his military
9 service with the Bronze Star Medal in 2008; and

10 WHEREAS, Gene Gutierrez served his country bravely and
11 loyally during a crucial moment in its history, contributing to the
12 ultimate Allied victory in World War II, and he is truly deserving
13 of this prestigious Congressional commendation; now, therefore, be
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
16 Legislature hereby congratulate Eugene Gutierrez Jr. on his receipt
17 of the Congressional Gold Medal and extend to him profound
18 gratitude for his extraordinary valor and sacrifice; and, be it
19 further

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