

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Joyce Eilene Rice Denke of Riesel, who served with
2 the Red Cross during the Vietnam War, has been featured in the *Waco*
3 *Tribune-Herald* as one of its Voices of Valor; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Denke was a young woman engaged to be married
5 when her fiancé, a soldier from Fort Hood, was killed in Vietnam;
6 three years later, in 1970, having worked with VISTA and having
7 earned a degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, she
8 joined the Red Cross and volunteered to go to Vietnam herself, to
9 give something back to the military in honor of her fiancé; and

10 WHEREAS, In Vietnam, Ms. Denke served with the Red Cross
11 program known as Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas as a
12 recreation worker, or "Donut Dollie"; during the program's seven
13 years of operation in Southeast Asia, 627 young women worked with
14 the SRAO in that capacity, spending six days a week on duty,
15 interacting with an average of 280,500 service members each month,
16 and logging more than two million miles in jeeps, trucks, and
17 helicopters; over the course of her year with the program,
18 Ms. Denke helped to boost the morale of combat personnel at landing
19 zones, hospitals, fire-support bases, and other locations; she
20 served six months at Cam Ranh Bay with the marines and another six
21 months with the army and air force at Da Nang; and

22 WHEREAS, After returning home, Ms. Denke served in the Red
23 Cross for another seven years and then took a job with IBM in Waco;
24 it was there that she met her future husband, Dewain Denke, whom she

1 married in 1979; in the years since, she has been featured in a
2 documentary film, *A Touch of Home: The Vietnam War's Red Cross*
3 *Girls*; and

4 WHEREAS, Through her bravery, compassion, and dedication,
5 Joyce Denke brought a friendly face and a touch of home to members
6 of the United States armed forces during a desperate time, and her
7 fellow citizens owe her a lasting debt of gratitude; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
10 Legislature hereby honor Joyce Denke for her exemplary service to
11 her country as a member of the Red Cross and congratulate her on her
12 recognition as one of the Voices of Valor by the *Waco*
13 *Tribune-Herald*; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Ms. Denke as an expression of high regard by the Texas
16 House of Representatives.

Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 1149

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1149 was adopted by the House on March 19, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House