

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 1149

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.