

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 1774

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Rene Garcia Gonzalez of Hebronville served his  
2 country with great distinction as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps  
3 during the Vietnam War, and he truly merits special recognition for  
4 his heroism and his devotion to duty; and

5           WHEREAS, The son of Jesus and Florencia Gonzalez, Rene  
6 Gonzalez enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1967, and he fought bravely  
7 for nearly 13 months in Vietnam as a machine gunner with the 1st  
8 Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Charlie  
9 Company, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad; and

10           WHEREAS, On June 4, 1968, Corporal Gonzalez was airlifted  
11 with 180 other marines to Landing Zone Loon, a fire base four miles  
12 from Khe Sanh, near the border with North Vietnam and Laos; the base  
13 was entirely surrounded by regular soldiers of the North Vietnamese  
14 Army, and on June 5, Corporal Gonzalez's unit began to endure an  
15 artillery barrage and constant automatic weapons fire from the  
16 enemy on a nearby ridge; and

17           WHEREAS, The following morning, the 88th NVA Regiment  
18 assaulted LZ Loon and overran the perimeter; Corporal Gonzalez  
19 courageously defended his foxhole, hurling hand grenades at enemy  
20 soldiers crawling up a ravine, and he and his assistant gunner were  
21 badly wounded when an enemy mortar shell hit their position; and

22           WHEREAS, In the end, the enemy was driven back when the only  
23 surviving marine officer called in an artillery strike on their own  
24 position; 41 marines were killed and more than 100 wounded in the

1 engagement, one of the deadliest of the Vietnam War; Corporal  
2 Gonzalez was flown to Khe Sanh and then to a hospital in Japan, and  
3 he received a Purple Heart and an honorable discharge because of the  
4 wounds he received that day; and

5 WHEREAS, Today, Mr. Gonzalez remains proud of his military  
6 service; he is a lifetime member of the Military Order of the Purple  
7 Heart as well as an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars,  
8 the Disabled American Veterans, and the Third Marine Division  
9 Association; and

10 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Gonzalez is blessed with  
11 the love and support of his wife, Antonia Guerra Gonzalez, his sons,  
12 Rene Gonzalez Jr. and Oziel Gonzalez, and his daughters, Maria I.  
13 Gonzalez Lascano and Sonia Gonzalez; and

14 WHEREAS, Rene Gonzalez endured the hardships of war with  
15 courage and tenacity, and he has earned a lasting debt of honor from  
16 every American; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby commend former U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Rene  
19 Garcia Gonzalez for his valiant service during the Vietnam War and  
20 extend to him sincere appreciation for his immeasurable efforts in  
21 this country's behalf; and, be it further

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