

By: Miller of Comal

H.R. No. 1963

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, March 27, 2015, was indeed a momentous day in the
2 life of eight-year-old Rowan Windham, for on that day he became an
3 honorary member of the Texas Army National Guard at a special
4 enlistment ceremony at Camp Mabry; and

5 WHEREAS, Rowan has been diagnosed with a rare disorder known
6 as Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome, which affects multiple organ
7 systems; he has spent more than 900 days in the hospital, during
8 which time he has endured dozens of blood transfusions and some 70
9 trips to the operating room; all the while, he has met the
10 challenges of his illness with unflinching grace and courage, and he
11 has inspired others with his ability to find joy in the simple
12 things of life; and

13 WHEREAS, A resident of New Braunfels, Rowan is supported by
14 his loving parents, Carrie Windham and Brian Windham, who served in
15 the United States Navy, and by his older brother, Ian; motivated by
16 a sense of patriotism and a selfless desire to help others, Rowan
17 has dreamed of one day following in his father's footsteps as a
18 member of the military, and his dream was fulfilled during a
19 surprise visit to Camp Mabry, headquarters of the Texas Army
20 National Guard; and

21 WHEREAS, The experience of a lifetime for Rowan began when he
22 and his family arrived at the base and were greeted by service
23 members at all levels of command; Rowan and his brother then rode in
24 a World War II-era Jeep to a building where Rowan was given his own

1 army-issued uniform and dog tags; standing before a crowd of 300
2 national guard members, state and local officials, and members of
3 the media, Rowan was inducted into the national guard as an honorary
4 lifetime soldier; and

5 WHEREAS, During the emotional ceremony, the host for the
6 occasion, Staff Sergeant Mireya Cruz, expressed how Rowan
7 exemplified the army's core values, saying, "Despite mental and
8 physical adversities that many adults could not manage, Rowan has
9 consistently demonstrated trust in his faith, [a] humble spirit,
10 and compassion for others, all of which he has placed before his own
11 personal needs"; and

12 WHEREAS, Brigadier General Sean Ryan, deputy commander of the
13 Texas Army National Guard, then administered the honorary
14 enlistment oath to Rowan and presented the guard's newest soldier
15 with the division's traditional Stetson hat and spurs; Ian was also
16 singled out for recognition and was awarded a medal for his care and
17 protection of his younger brother; and

18 WHEREAS, This well-deserved tribute was initiated by
19 Sergeant David Hixson, a combat medic in the national guard who had
20 treated Rowan while working as a civilian nurse's aide; in
21 addition, numerous other individuals at Camp Mabry helped to make
22 possible the day's events, which included a special tour of the base
23 for Rowan and Ian; and

24 WHEREAS, At only eight years old, Rowan Windham has shown a
25 deep commitment to his country and a maturity well beyond his years,
26 and it is a great privilege to honor this remarkable young Texan in
27 concert with the valiant service members who have welcomed him into

1 their ranks; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
3 Legislature hereby congratulate Private First Class Rowan Windham
4 on his enlistment as an honorary member of the Texas Army National
5 Guard and extend to Rowan and his family sincere best wishes for the
6 future; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for the Windham family as an expression of high regard by
9 the Texas House of Representatives.