

By: Campbell

S.C.R. No. 43

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established
2 to recognize gallant and intrepid service by a member of the state
3 or federal military forces, and U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Matthew
4 E. Mendoza proved himself a deserving recipient of this prestigious
5 honor; and

6 WHEREAS, Born on April 22, 1984, Matthew Mendoza grew up
7 playing football and became a popular athlete at Highlands High
8 School, where he was a linebacker and running back for the football
9 team; he also enjoyed coaching in the local Pop Warner league; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2004, Mr. Mendoza answered his nation's call to
11 duty during time of war and became the third generation of his
12 family to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps; he completed two tours of
13 duty in Iraq before shipping out to Afghanistan in 2008 with the 2nd
14 Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine
15 Expeditionary Force, out of Twentynine Palms, California, in
16 support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

17 WHEREAS, Appointed squad leader for 1st Platoon, Company E,
18 on April 8, 2008, Sergeant Mendoza led more than 40 combat patrols
19 in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand Province, one of the most
20 dangerous regions in Afghanistan; as the leader of his unit's
21 advance party, he dedicated countless hours to evaluating the
22 platoon's area of operations, to ensure that his fellow marines
23 would understand the battlefield; and

24 WHEREAS, On June 19, 2008, Sergeant Mendoza and his squad

1 were conducting a mounted patrol along Highway 1 when they came
2 under small arms fire; he and his men left their vehicle and engaged
3 the enemy, eliminating the threat and preventing any casualties
4 among the coalition forces and the surrounding civilian population;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The following day, Sergeant Mendoza ordered some of
7 his squad to remain behind in the staging area while he, his Afghan
8 interpreter, and three other men advanced on foot through difficult
9 terrain that would not accommodate their vehicle; a few moments
10 later, the sergeant and his interpreter were killed by a suicide
11 bomber, and the other three men were injured; by putting himself in
12 the lead, he once again prevented the enemy from killing more
13 American soldiers; and

14 WHEREAS, Admired by his men for always leading from the
15 front, Matthew Mendoza repeatedly risked his life to protect the
16 lives of his fellow marines; for his actions on June 19, he was
17 posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Throughout his military career, Matthew Mendoza
20 embodied the highest traditions of the Marine Corps with his
21 initiative, perseverance, and devotion to duty, and for his
22 conspicuous bravery and his final sacrifice, he is truly deserving
23 of this state's supreme military award; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
25 hereby direct the governor of the State of Texas to posthumously
26 award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Matthew E. Mendoza in
27 recognition of his valiant service during Operation Enduring

1 Freedom.