

1-1 By: Campbell, Zaffirini S.C.R. No. 44
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed May 7, 2015; May 7, 2015, read first
1-3 time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military
1-4 Installations; May 15, 2015, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 15, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9			X	
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established
1-17 to recognize gallant and intrepid service by a member of the state
1-18 or federal military forces, and Cleto L. Rodriguez proved himself a
1-19 deserving recipient of this prestigious award; and

1-20 WHEREAS, Born in San Marcos on April 26, 1923, Cleto
1-21 Rodriguez lost both his parents when he was nine, and he moved to
1-22 San Antonio to live with relatives; he joined the United States Army
1-23 in 1944, becoming a private in Company B of the 148th Infantry; and

1-24 WHEREAS, On February 9, 1945, during the battle for Manila in
1-25 the Philippines, Private Rodriguez and his unit were advancing on
1-26 the heavily defended Paco Railroad Station when they were pinned
1-27 down by intense enemy fire; at that point, Private Rodriguez and
1-28 Private First Class John Reese took the initiative to charge the
1-29 enemy position; the two men reached a house 60 yards from the
1-30 Japanese emplacements, and from that location, under the gaze of
1-31 enemy gunners, they killed 35 combatants; and

1-32 WHEREAS, On moving closer to their objective, the pair
1-33 spotted Japanese reinforcements moving toward the station;
1-34 Privates Rodriguez and Reese killed more than 40 of the group, which
1-35 discouraged further attempts to reinforce the Japanese defenses;
1-36 Private Reese then provided covering fire as Private Rodriguez ran
1-37 forward and lobbed five grenades into the station doorway,
1-38 destroying a 20mm gun and a heavy machine gun and eliminating their
1-39 crews; as the pair withdrew to their own lines, Private Reese was
1-40 mortally wounded; and

1-41 WHEREAS, The bold actions of Privates Rodriguez and Reese
1-42 threw Japanese defenses at the station into disarray and made
1-43 possible the subsequent seizure of the stronghold; two days later,
1-44 Private Rodriguez again enabled his comrades to move forward when
1-45 he singlehandedly killed six more enemy soldiers and took out
1-46 another 20mm gun; for having materially aided the advance of United
1-47 States troops in Manila, he was awarded the Medal of Honor; and

1-48 WHEREAS, Upon his return to San Antonio, Cleto Rodriguez was
1-49 presented with the key to the city; he worked as a representative
1-50 for the Veterans Administration and then served in the United
1-51 States Air Force from 1952 to 1954 and in the army from 1955 to 1970,
1-52 rising to the rank of master sergeant before his retirement; over
1-53 the years, he also served his community as a member of the League of
1-54 United Latin American Citizens; his boyhood elementary school was
1-55 renamed in his honor in 1975; and

1-56 WHEREAS, Married to Flora Muniz in November 1945, Cleto
1-57 Rodriguez became the proud father of four children; he passed away
1-58 on December 7, 1990, and was buried at Fort Sam Houston National
1-59 Cemetery; the following year, a section of United States Route 90 in
1-60 San Antonio was named after him; the city has two murals featuring
1-61 his likeness, at the Cassiano Homes housing project and at the San

2-1 Antonio Central Library; and

2-2 WHEREAS, Cleto Rodriguez repeatedly risked his life to
2-3 complete his mission and save the lives of his fellow soldiers, and
2-4 for his remarkable heroism, he is most assuredly deserving of this
2-5 state's supreme military award; now, therefore, be it

2-6 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-7 hereby direct the governor of the State of Texas to posthumously
2-8 award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Cleto L. Rodriguez in
2-9 recognition of his valiant service during World War II.

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