

By: Shine, Cospers, Sheffield, et al.

H.C.R. No. 56

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to  
2 members of the United States armed forces who are wounded by an  
3 instrument of war in the hands of the enemy or presented to the next  
4 of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds  
5 received in action; and

6           WHEREAS, Originally established by General George Washington  
7 during the Revolutionary War, the Purple Heart was revived by means  
8 of a presidential executive order on February 22, 1932, the 200th  
9 anniversary of President Washington's birth, out of respect for his  
10 military achievements; the criteria were announced by the War  
11 Department on that date in General Order No. 3; and

12           WHEREAS, Texas is home to 1.5 million veterans, representing  
13 5 percent of the nation's total veteran population; the state has 30  
14 Purple Heart cities, 4 Purple Heart counties, and 9 Purple Heart  
15 universities, which have all committed to recognizing veterans and  
16 honoring their commitments to veterans services; in addition, Texas  
17 is home to Belton New Tech High at Waskow, the first high school in  
18 the nation to earn a Purple Heart School designation, and to Purple  
19 Heart Elementary School in El Paso; and

20           WHEREAS, Numerous Texas agencies provide services to benefit  
21 former members of the military, including the Texas Veterans  
22 Commission, Texas Veterans' Land Board, Office of the Adjutant  
23 General, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, State Bar of  
24 Texas, Department of State Health Services, Texas Workforce

1 Commission, Texas Workforce Investment Council, Texas Higher  
2 Education Coordinating Board, Texas Correctional Office on  
3 Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments, Texas Commission on  
4 Jail Standards, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs,  
5 and Texas Department of Agriculture; and

6 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is dedicated to improving the  
7 lives of its veterans with the highest standard of services, and it  
8 acknowledges the enormous sacrifices made by recipients of the  
9 Purple Heart; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 hereby recognize Texas as a Purple Heart State and encourage  
12 agencies and government bodies at all levels to serve veterans with  
13 the same degree of devotion demonstrated by members of the armed  
14 forces in their service to our state and nation; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby designate  
16 February 22 as Purple Heart Day; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
18 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
19 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
20 passed by the legislature.