86R15353 JGH-D

By:  Springer H.C.R. No. 111

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The valiant military service of Michael Edwin Thornton is being saluted as part of the 2019 Medal of Honor Host City Weekend in Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, Established in 2001, Gainesville's Medal of Honor Host City Program acknowledges the heroism and sacrifice of individuals who have earned the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award for valor; each year, local citizens join together to fund travel costs and other expenses to bring medal recipients to the city for a special series of events; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Navy Petty Officer Michael Thornton earned his Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, when he was one of two U.S. Navy advisors to a three-man Vietnamese Navy SEAL team during a raid on an enemy base along a river; after the senior U.S. Navy advisor was badly wounded, PO Thornton returned to him under heavy fire, killed two enemy soldiers, and dragged his comrade to the river, where he then inflated the wounded man's life jacket and towed him through the water for two hours until they were rescued; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating extraordinary courage in the line of duty, Michael Edwin Thornton fulfilled the highest ideals of the United States armed forces, and he has earned the lasting admiration of a grateful nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby pay tribute to Michael Edwin Thornton on the occasion of the 2019 Medal of Honor Host City Weekend in Gainesville and commend him for his exemplary service in the defense of our nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Thornton as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.