86R20381 SME-D

By:  Landgraf H.R. No. 1124

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Marvin Rex Young and Private First Class Alfred Mac Wilson, natives of Odessa, posthumously received the Medal of Honor in recognition of their valiant actions in defense of their country during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, While serving in the U.S. Army, Rex Young's company was engaged by a North Vietnamese force of overwhelming number on August 21, 1968; Sergeant Young assumed command of Company C when his platoon leader was killed, and he organized his men in a defensive position against the enemy; upon receiving orders to retreat, he remained to provide covering fire for his comrades; observing that members of a section of the point squad were unable to escape from their position, he immediately moved to their aid and sustained a number of severe wounds, including a critical head injury and shattered leg; he refused medical assistance and continued to provide cover for his fellow soldiers as they withdrew, until the enemy engulfed his position; and

WHEREAS, On March 3, 1969, Mac Wilson made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of his fellow marines when his platoon came under fire by North Vietnamese forces; his squad's machine gunner and assistant machine gunner were rendered incapacitated in the ensuing firefight and unable to operate their weapon, and Private Wilson and another marine moved through enemy fire to man the gun, when an enemy soldier threw a grenade at them; Private Wilson killed the combatant and, without hesitation, threw himself on the grenade in order to protect his comrade; his body absorbed the full force of the lethal blast, and his platoon members went on to attack and defeat the opposing troops; and

WHEREAS, Known as the "City of Honor," Odessa has paid tribute to these two fallen heroes with the dedication of Wilson & Young Medal of Honor Middle School in 2015; both were alumni of the Odessa school system, with Mr. Young earning his diploma from Permian High in 1965 and Mr. Wilson graduating from Odessa High in 1967; and

WHEREAS, These Texans' inspiring actions on the battlefield mark them as soldiers of extraordinary selflessness and valor, and they are indeed deserving recipients of our nation's highest military award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor the service of Medal of Honor recipients Marvin Rex Young and Alfred Mac Wilson and pay tribute to their enduring legacy in the city of Odessa.