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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Texas National Guard is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its partnership with the armed forces of the Republic of Chile in April 2019; and

WHEREAS, A joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau, the State Partnership Program was established in 1993 after the end of the Cold War, and it links the national guards of individual states with the militaries of countries around the world; since April 2009, the Texas National Guard has been working with the Chilean armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of their partnership, the TXNG and Chile have conducted dozens of exchanges, participating in such exercises as airborne operations, C-130 and F-16 maintenance and flight maneuvers, special forces exchanges, and homeland security response preparedness; in addition, members of the TXNG have traveled to Tierra del Fuego, Chile, to learn the techniques for building roads in remote areas from the Chilean Army, and they have collaborated with the Chilean Air Force in a medical evacuation exercise and competed alongside Chilean soldiers and airmen at the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Swift near Bastrop; and

WHEREAS, In this anniversary year, the adjutant general of Texas, Major General Tracy R. Norris, is meeting with a delegation of Chilean officials to sign an Agreement of Activity for the coming year; these eminent Chileans include Jose Luis Briseno, the consul general of Chile, Lieutenant General Albert Widmer, deputy chief of the joint staff of the Chilean armed forces, Rear Admiral Leonardo Quijarro, deputy chief of staff for the Chilean Navy, and Major General Carlos Castillo, Chilean military attaché to the United States and chief of the Chilean military mission in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Over the past decade, the Texas National Guard and the Chilean military have built a strong relationship based on shared values and mutual respect, and this significant milestone in their partnership is truly deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 10th anniversary of the partnership between the Texas National Guard and the Republic of Chile and extend a warm welcome to the visiting delegation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the visiting delegation as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.