86R36913 CW-D

By:  Price H.R. No. 2169

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, On May 16, 2020, Americans are paying special tribute to our nation's military personnel with the commemoration of Armed Forces Day; and

WHEREAS, This annual observance was launched following the 1947 merger of the Departments of War and Navy into one entity, the National Military Establishment, now known as the Department of Defense; on this occasion, we pause to honor the members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard, whose devotion to duty has helped safeguard Americans at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Army began as 10 companies of riflemen that were sanctioned by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1775; since that time, the army has supplied the majority of American ground troops when our nation has taken up arms; today, the service is composed of a number of divisions, including Infantry, Military Intelligence, Aviation, the Corps of Engineers, and Special Forces, as well as such specialized branches as the Army Medical Department Corps, Chaplain Corps, and Judge Advocate General's Corps; and

WHEREAS, The foundation for the U.S. Navy was first laid on October 13, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress authorized the outfitting of two warships; following the Revolutionary War, the service remained dormant until the establishment of the Department of the Navy on April 30, 1798; today, naval personnel protect the homeland by sea and provide seaborne support to the other military branches; and

WHEREAS, On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution to assemble two marine battalions, and though the Marine Corps disbanded after the War of Independence, it was reestablished on July 11, 1798; the service is now a component of the Department of the Navy, with the mission of preparing for counterinsurgency, amphibious warfare, and commando operations; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Air Force traces its roots back to the 1907 creation of an aeronautical division within the U.S. Army Signal Corps, and it later became known as the Army Air Corps and the Army Air Forces before being designated as an individual branch within the Department of Defense on September 18, 1947; the service first proved its tremendous worth by performing crucial reconnaissance and bombing missions throughout World War I and World War II, and it quickly earned recognition as the most powerful air force on earth; the branch's scope has expanded dramatically over the years, and it now encompasses defense in the realms of air, space, and cyberspace; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1915, the U.S. Coast Guard is now part of the Department of Homeland Security; throughout its history, the branch has assumed many duties, from protecting against pirates to intercepting contraband, conducting search and rescue operations, responding to oil spills, and licensing and certifying all U.S. maritime personnel; during wartime, its efforts have included escort and patrol duty and assisting amphibious landings; and

WHEREAS, From the infancy of our nation onward, American military personnel have been integral to preserving the security and liberty of our citizenry; this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all active-duty servicemen and servicewomen, as well as to the members of the reserve forces, the Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard for their gallantry and dedication; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize May 16, 2020, as Armed Forces Day and pay tribute to the members of the nation's military.