86R15340 SME-D

By:  Fallon S.C.R. No. 42

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The valiant military service of Donald E. Ballard 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, A member of the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Ballard risked his life without hesitation to render aid to his comrades; during a North Vietnamese ambush, he moved through enemy fire to tend to a wounded marine; as he and his fellow marines transported the injured man to safety, a concealed enemy soldier threw a hand grenade; HC2c Ballard shouted a warning and threw himself on the grenade to protect his comrades from the blast; fortunately, it failed to detonate, and he was able to resume treating casualties; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating extraordinary courage in the line of duty, Donald Ballard 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 Donald E. Ballard 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. Ballard as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.