

1-1 By: Dean (Senate Sponsor - Campbell) H.C.R. No. 120
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2019;
1-3 May 3, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran
1-4 Affairs & Border Security; May 17, 2019, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 17, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	<u>Campbell</u>	X		
1-9	<u>Hall</u>	X		
1-10	<u>Johnson</u>	X		
1-11	<u>Lucio</u>		X	
1-12	<u>Menéndez</u>	X		
1-13	<u>Schwertner</u>	X		
1-14	<u>Seliger</u>	X		

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established
1-17 to recognize gallant and intrepid service by a member of the state
1-18 or federal military forces, and U.S. Army Private First Class
1-19 George Benton Turner proved himself a deserving recipient of this
1-20 prestigious commendation with his heroic actions during World War
1-21 II; and

1-22 WHEREAS, George Turner was born in Longview in 1899, the son
1-23 of Gaines and Emme Turner, and he later attended Wentworth Military
1-24 Academy in Lexington, Missouri; during World War I, he enlisted in
1-25 the U.S. Marine Corps, but the conflict ended before he had a chance
1-26 to see action; after the war, he settled in California and married;
1-27 and

1-28 WHEREAS, When the United States entered World War II,
1-29 Mr. Turner answered his nation's call to duty once again and
1-30 enlisted in the U.S. Army even though he was already in his forties;
1-31 during training, he demonstrated his dedication to duty and his
1-32 determination to prove himself in combat, and he quickly won the
1-33 respect of his officers and fellow soldiers, many of whom were young
1-34 enough to be his children; on several occasions, he refused a
1-35 promotion, knowing it would keep him from the front lines; and

1-36 WHEREAS, By 1945, Private Turner was serving in France with
1-37 the 499th Armored Field Artillery Battalion of the 14th Armored
1-38 Division; on January 3, he was acting as a forward observer in the
1-39 village of Philippsbourg, only a few miles from the German border,
1-40 when he found himself cut off from his unit by an enemy armored
1-41 infantry attack; and

1-42 WHEREAS, After encountering an Allied infantry company that
1-43 was retreating before the German advance, Private Turner spotted
1-44 two enemy tanks and 75 German soldiers advancing up the main street
1-45 of the village; despite the staggering odds, he held his ground
1-46 under heavy fire and used a rocket launcher to destroy one of the
1-47 tanks and to disable the other; he then removed a machine gun from a
1-48 nearby half-track and used it to further disrupt the enemy
1-49 onslaught; in the ensuing American counterattack, two U.S. tanks
1-50 were disabled, and Private Turner again sprang into action, firing
1-51 a light machine gun from the hip to hold off the Germans so that the
1-52 American tank crews could escape; he attempted to rescue a soldier
1-53 from one of the burning tanks but was driven back and wounded when
1-54 the tank's ammunition exploded; and

1-55 WHEREAS, Despite his injuries, Private Turner refused to be
1-56 evacuated, and he continued to fight until the next day; during that
1-57 time, he helped drive off an enemy patrol, took part in the capture
1-58 of a German position, and drove a truck through heavy fire to
1-59 deliver wounded men to an aid station in the rear; and

1-60 WHEREAS, In recognition of his magnificent heroism, Private
1-61 Turner was presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor by

2-1 President Harry Truman on August 23, 1945; at the age of 46, he was
2-2 one of the oldest individuals to receive that illustrious
2-3 commendation in World War II; following his return to civilian
2-4 life, he died in Encino, California, in 1963, and was buried in
2-5 Arlington National Cemetery; and

2-6 WHEREAS, George Turner's extraordinary actions on the field
2-7 of battle distinguished him as a warrior of peerless courage, and it
2-8 is indeed appropriate that he be honored with the highest military
2-9 award granted by the state where he was born; now, therefore, be it

2-10 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-11 hereby direct the governor of the State of Texas to posthumously
2-12 award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to George Benton Turner
2-13 in recognition of his valiant service during World War II.

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