

By: Springer

H.C.R. No. 141

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Combat veteran and celebrated military artist
2 George L. Skypeck donated his painting *The Spirit of the Alamo*
3 *Lives On* to the State of Texas, and it will be available for public
4 viewing at the State Capitol beginning April 9, 2019; and

5 WHEREAS, When Mr. Skypeck was recovering from wounds he
6 received in Vietnam, he spent part of his recovery at the Audie
7 L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital in San Antonio, and in appreciation
8 of the kindness he received from Texans, he painted *The Spirit of*
9 *the Alamo Lives On*; the piece depicts incidents from Texas military
10 history, and the paint itself includes sand from Omaha Beach, the
11 site of some of the fiercest fighting on D-Day in 1944; Mr. Skypeck
12 donated the artwork to the state in 2009, and after being on display
13 for a time at the Texas Veterans Commission, it is being rehung near
14 the Medal of Honor hallway in the Capitol on April 9, 2019; and

15 WHEREAS, A native of Massachusetts, George Skypeck served in
16 the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1974, including two combat tours in
17 Vietnam as a special warfare and senior intelligence advisor;
18 during the Tet Offensive of 1968, he commanded 50 men in the defense
19 of the Ben Tre outpost; his numerous decorations include two Bronze
20 Stars, a Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, three Air
21 Medals, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge; he left the army in 1974
22 at the rank of captain; and

23 WHEREAS, In civilian life, Mr. Skypeck earned a bachelor's
24 degree in political science and a master's degree in public

1 administration from the University of Massachusetts, and he also
2 studied at the Corcoran Museum of Art in Washington, D.C.; a
3 disabled veteran himself, he has won international acclaim for
4 paintings honoring the men and women who have served in our nation's
5 armed forces; his work is on display around the world, in such
6 places as the Pentagon, the U.S. Capitol, the ministries of defense
7 in South Korea and Germany, and the headquarters of the American
8 Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and NATO; his military
9 service and creative contributions have been honored with many
10 awards, including the George Washington Medallion of Merit from the
11 Military Order of the Purple Heart; and

12 WHEREAS, George Skypeck has dedicated his life and his art to
13 supporting and recognizing his fellow veterans, and his generous
14 gift to the people of Texas will hang with honor in the State
15 Capitol, inspiring countless visitors for years to come; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commend
18 George Skypeck for his donation of *The Spirit of the Alamo Lives On*
19 to the State of Texas and extend to him sincere best wishes for the
20 future; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mr. Skypeck as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.