

By: Bernal

H.R. No. 642

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, U.S. Navy Seaman Lawrence Paul Hayden gave his life
2 in the line of duty during the tragic attack on the USS *Liberty* in
3 the eastern Mediterranean Sea on June 8, 1967; and

4 WHEREAS, During the Six-Day War, the USS *Liberty*, an American
5 signals intelligence ship, was stationed off the coast of Gaza, and
6 on June 8, the ship was attacked by Israeli fighter planes and
7 torpedo boats; of the 34 Americans killed and the 171 wounded,
8 Mr. Hayden is believed to be the only Texan; and

9 WHEREAS, A native of Houston, Larry Hayden was adopted at
10 birth on June 16, 1947, by Mr. and Mrs. James H. Hayden, and he grew
11 up with two sisters and a brother; as a young boy, he used his talent
12 performing magic tricks at benefits for orphanages and other
13 charities, and he went on to become an accomplished public speaker,
14 debater, and actor, playing in both professional and school
15 productions; he was president of his church's youth group, and by
16 the time he graduated from high school, he was already working as a
17 radio announcer on KQED radio in Houston; and

18 WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty, Mr. Hayden
19 joined the U.S. Navy in May 1966, and he was stationed on the USS
20 *Liberty* as a cryptologic technician; he had been serving for just
21 over a year on the day of the attack, and he died eight days before
22 his 20th birthday; he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery; and

23 WHEREAS, Lawrence Hayden was a young man of great promise who
24 made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country, and his

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1 fellow Americans owe him a debt that the passage of time can never
2 diminish; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
4 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of U.S. Navy Seaman
5 Lawrence Paul Hayden.