

By: Landgraf

H.R. No. 1124

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Marvin Rex Young and Private First  
2 Class Alfred Mac Wilson, natives of Odessa, posthumously received  
3 the Medal of Honor in recognition of their valiant actions in  
4 defense of their country during the Vietnam War; and

5           WHEREAS, While serving in the U.S. Army, Rex Young's company  
6 was engaged by a North Vietnamese force of overwhelming number on  
7 August 21, 1968; Sergeant Young assumed command of Company C when  
8 his platoon leader was killed, and he organized his men in a  
9 defensive position against the enemy; upon receiving orders to  
10 retreat, he remained to provide covering fire for his comrades;  
11 observing that members of a section of the point squad were unable  
12 to escape from their position, he immediately moved to their aid and  
13 sustained a number of severe wounds, including a critical head  
14 injury and shattered leg; he refused medical assistance and  
15 continued to provide cover for his fellow soldiers as they  
16 withdrew, until the enemy engulfed his position; and

17           WHEREAS, On March 3, 1969, Mac Wilson made the ultimate  
18 sacrifice in the defense of his fellow marines when his platoon came  
19 under fire by North Vietnamese forces; his squad's machine gunner  
20 and assistant machine gunner were rendered incapacitated in the  
21 ensuing firefight and unable to operate their weapon, and Private  
22 Wilson and another marine moved through enemy fire to man the gun,  
23 when an enemy soldier threw a grenade at them; Private Wilson killed  
24 the combatant and, without hesitation, threw himself on the grenade

1 in order to protect his comrade; his body absorbed the full force of  
2 the lethal blast, and his platoon members went on to attack and  
3 defeat the opposing troops; and

4 WHEREAS, Known as the "City of Honor," Odessa has paid  
5 tribute to these two fallen heroes with the dedication of Wilson &  
6 Young Medal of Honor Middle School in 2015; both were alumni of the  
7 Odessa school system, with Mr. Young earning his diploma from  
8 Permian High in 1965 and Mr. Wilson graduating from Odessa High in  
9 1967; and

10 WHEREAS, These Texans' inspiring actions on the battlefield  
11 mark them as soldiers of extraordinary selflessness and valor, and  
12 they are indeed deserving recipients of our nation's highest  
13 military award; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby honor the service of Medal of Honor recipients  
16 Marvin Rex Young and Alfred Mac Wilson and pay tribute to their  
17 enduring legacy in the city of Odessa.