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By:  Toth H.R. No. 244

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Former marine Chad Robichaux demonstrated remarkable courage and compassion by scouting escape routes from Afghanistan and assisting with evacuation efforts during the American withdrawal from the country in August 2021; and

WHEREAS, A veteran of the Force Reconnaissance special operations unit of the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Robichaux served eight deployments in Afghanistan as a marine and as a Department of Defense contractor with a Joint Special Operations Command task force; he is also a founder of the Mighty Oaks Foundation, a faith-based veteran service organization; and

WHEREAS, In the chaos of the withdrawal, many members of the U.S. military and the private sector labored tirelessly to evacuate American citizens as well as Afghans who held green cards or were applicants for special immigration visas, all of whom were at risk for brutal retaliation by the Taliban; Mr. Robichaux and the Mighty Oaks Foundation joined with The Independence Fund to create a nongovernmental organization called Save Our Allies, and over the course of 10 days, a task force of 12 former special operations veterans evacuated 12,000 people from the airport in Kabul; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robichaux and another member of his team, U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant Dennis Price, subsequently risked their lives by scouting more than 90 miles of extremely rugged and mountainous terrain along the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan to facilitate additional evacuation efforts; for 10 days, the two men reconnoitered routes and tested river crossings while avoiding the Taliban and patrols of the Russian KGB and the Tajik and Chinese militaries; they were fired on by snipers, nearly captured or killed on several occasions, and swam freezing rivers to establish crossing points; in the end, they were forced to flee across the border themselves to a safe house in Dushanbe, the capital city of Tajikistan; and

WHEREAS, Through his leadership, skill, and tremendous bravery, Chad Robichaux helped rescue thousands of people whose lives were in great danger, and his exceptional achievements are indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Chad Robichaux for his selfless heroism in Afghanistan and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Robichaux as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.