87R6698 CW-D

By:  Ellzey H.C.R. No. 44

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established to recognize gallant and intrepid service by a member of the state or federal military forces, and U.S. Marine Corps First Lieutenant Andrew Jackson Lummus Jr., who was killed in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II, proved himself a deserving recipient of this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lummus was born in Ennis on October 22, 1915, and he grew up on his family's cotton farm during the Great Depression; a gifted athlete, he earned scholarships to Texas Military College and to Baylor University, where he played baseball and football for the Bears; in early 1941, he left college to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps but was given an honorable discharge when he failed to complete flight school; he then accepted an offer to play professional football with the New York Giants, and it was during the team's game on December 7, 1941, that he learned of the attack on Pearl Harbor; determined to serve his country, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and after a series of training and duty assignments in the United States, he was deployed to the Pacific theater as an officer in the 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Marine Division; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Lummus led his rifle platoon ashore at Iwo Jima as part of the initial contingent of marine forces to land on the island; on March 8, 1945, his unit advanced against a line of Japanese pillboxes along the island's rugged Nishi Ridge; moving ahead of his men under fierce enemy fire, he destroyed one pillbox with grenades even as he was wounded and knocked off his feet by a blast from an enemy grenade; undaunted, he eliminated a second pillbox and returned to his platoon before attacking and knocking out a third pillbox; he urged his fellow marines forward while continuing to fire into enemy foxholes with his carbine; and

WHEREAS, This courageous Texan's one-man assault was ended when he stepped on a land mine; though he lost both of his legs in the explosion, he continued to shout to his men, "Don't stop now! Keep going!" and by nightfall, his unit had taken the ridge; Lieutenant Lummus died on the operating table in a field hospital and was buried in the Fifth Marine Division cemetery on the island; and

WHEREAS, On May 30, 1946, First Lieutenant Jack Lummus was posthumously honored with the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest commendation for valor in combat, by President Harry S. Truman, and two years later, he was reinterred in his hometown cemetery; in the decades since, his heroism has been recognized many times; in 1986, the U.S. Navy named a ship after him, and that same year, Jack Lummus Memorial Park was dedicated in Ennis, where there is also an intermediate school that bears his name; his Medal of Honor citation is on display at Baylor University, and on October 11, 2015, the New York Giants inducted him into the Ring of Honor at MetLife Stadium; and

WHEREAS, During one of the most savage battles of World War II, First Lieutenant Jack Lummus demonstrated extraordinary bravery and leadership and made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation, and he is indeed deserving of this state's supreme military commendation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby direct the governor of the State of Texas to posthumously award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Andrew Jackson Lummus Jr. in recognition of his valiant service during World War II.