87R23329 CW-D

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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, May 24, 2021, marks the 10th anniversary of the relocation of the U.S. Army 1st Armored Division to Fort Bliss in El Paso; and

WHEREAS, Known as Old Ironsides, this historic unit is the oldest armored division in the U.S. Army; it was activated in July 1940 at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and it became the first American armored division to engage in World War II through its efforts with Operation Torch in North Africa; the Iron Soldiers, as the division's members are called, have also served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, as well as during the years of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan; in 1971, the component moved to Germany, and over the next four decades, it was instrumental in NATO's defense of Europe; and

WHEREAS, On May 13, 2011, the 1st Armored Division cased its colors at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, marking the departure of the final U.S. Army division headquarters from Germany; on May 24 of that year, the division signaled its official return to U.S. soil when its colors were unfurled at Fort Bliss; and

WHEREAS, Today, Old Ironsides conducts operations in support of U.S. military combatant commands around the globe; Fort Bliss and the city of El Paso provide a welcoming environment for military personnel and their families, and the presence of the 1st Armored Division at the base has helped spur job creation while bringing millions of dollars into the local economy; and

WHEREAS, The 1st Armored Division has played an integral part in the defense of our nation and in the prosperity of the Lone Star State, and the unit's members may indeed take great pride in their myriad contributions as they celebrate this special occasion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 10th anniversary of the relocation of the U.S. Army 1st Armored Division to Fort Bliss and extend to all those associated with the division sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the 1st Armored Division as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.