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By:  Price H.R. No. 953

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Every Memorial Day, millions of citizens across Texas and the nation gather to remember those heroic men and women in uniform who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country; and

WHEREAS, Originally known as Decoration Day for the practice of decorating the graves of soldiers with flowers once a year, this holiday began after the Civil War as a remembrance of those who had died in the war; celebrated on May 30 in subsequent decades, the holiday came to be known as Memorial Day, a day to honor all of the country's fallen, in all of its wars; since the early 1970s, the day has been observed on the last Monday in May; and

WHEREAS, The nation's most solemn Memorial Day ceremony occurs in Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where the remains of unidentified Americans from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War are interred in a marble monument and in the adjacent plaza; accompanied by honor guards from all branches of the military, the president of the United States traditionally lays a wreath at the tomb, and the ceremony is further solemnized by the sounding of "Taps," the haunting bugle call that has been performed at military funerals and memorials since the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, At the same time, in cities large and small across the nation, veterans and their fellow citizens gather in cemeteries and other public places to remember fallen comrades and to pay tribute to those who died to protect our liberty and our republic; these ceremonies are also graced by the stirring echoes of "Taps," and by tradition, the United States flag is briskly raised to full staff at the beginning of the day and then lowered slowly to half staff, where it remains until noon, when it is raised to full staff again; and

WHEREAS, The toll of freedom is high; in the years since the founding of our republic, more than one million American military personnel have died in U.S. wars, and each year, on Memorial Day, Americans gather to pay tribute to those courageous men and women who, in the words of President Abraham Lincoln, gave the last full measure of devotion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby recognize Memorial Day 2021 in solemn commemoration of all those who have died in the service of our nation.