

By: Ellzey

H.C.R. No. 44

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

7           WHEREAS, Jack Lummus was born in Ennis on October 22, 1915,  
8 and he grew up on his family's cotton farm during the Great  
9 Depression; a gifted athlete, he earned scholarships to Texas  
10 Military College and to Baylor University, where he played baseball  
11 and football for the Bears; in early 1941, he left college to enlist  
12 in the U.S. Army Air Corps but was given an honorable discharge when  
13 he failed to complete flight school; he then accepted an offer to  
14 play professional football with the New York Giants, and it was  
15 during the team's game on December 7, 1941, that he learned of the  
16 attack on Pearl Harbor; determined to serve his country, he  
17 enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and after a series of training  
18 and duty assignments in the United States, he was deployed to the  
19 Pacific theater as an officer in the 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines,  
20 5th Marine Division; and

21           WHEREAS, Lieutenant Lummus led his rifle platoon ashore at  
22 Iwo Jima as part of the initial contingent of marine forces to land  
23 on the island; on March 8, 1945, his unit advanced against a line of  
24 Japanese pillboxes along the island's rugged Nishi Ridge; moving

1 ahead of his men under fierce enemy fire, he destroyed one pillbox  
2 with grenades even as he was wounded and knocked off his feet by a  
3 blast from an enemy grenade; undaunted, he eliminated a second  
4 pillbox and returned to his platoon before attacking and knocking  
5 out a third pillbox; he urged his fellow marines forward while  
6 continuing to fire into enemy foxholes with his carbine; and

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

14         WHEREAS, On May 30, 1946, First Lieutenant Jack Lummus was  
15 posthumously honored with the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest  
16 commendation for valor in combat, by President Harry S. Truman, and  
17 two years later, he was reinterred in his hometown cemetery; in the  
18 decades since, his heroism has been recognized many times; in 1986,  
19 the U.S. Navy named a ship after him, and that same year, Jack  
20 Lummus Memorial Park was dedicated in Ennis, where there is also an  
21 intermediate school that bears his name; his Medal of Honor  
22 citation is on display at Baylor University, and on October 11,  
23 2015, the New York Giants inducted him into the Ring of Honor at  
24 MetLife Stadium; and

25         WHEREAS, During one of the most savage battles of World War  
26 II, First Lieutenant Jack Lummus demonstrated extraordinary  
27 bravery and leadership and made the ultimate sacrifice while

1 defending our nation, and he is indeed deserving of this state's  
2 supreme military commendation; now, therefore, be it

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