RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In February 2021, Texas is celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Texas State Guard; and

WHEREAS, The first colonial militia was established in Texas in 1823, and after independence from Mexico and statehood, the various militias across Texas were consolidated in 1871 as the State Guard, which was replaced in 1903 by the Texas Army National Guard; in 1940, the creation of local military units was authorized by the U.S. Congress whenever the National Guard was deployed for federal service, and on February 10, 1941, the Texas Legislature created the Texas State Guard, which quickly grew to include almost 17,500 officers and enlisted personnel organized into 50 battalions; in 1948, the legislature activated the Texas State Guard Reserve Corps, which continued until the Texas State Guard was reauthorized in 1965; and

WHEREAS, One of the three branches of the Texas Military Department, the Texas State Guard is headquartered at Camp Mabry in Austin; over the years, this mission-ready military force's duties have included providing security for the state's infrastructure during World War II, maintaining order after civil unrest, and conducting recovery efforts after such catastrophic events as the explosion of a freighter in Texas City in 1947 and the loss of the space shuttle Columbia in 2003; since 2005, the guard's 125 deployments have included responding to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike, and Harvey and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the long-term
border missions Operation Border Star and Operation Drawbridge; it has also taken part in such public service efforts as Operation Lone Star, which provides critical medical care to underserved populations in South Texas; and

WHEREAS, For eight decades, the men and women of the Texas State Guard have lived up to their motto, "Equal to the Task," by standing ready to aid and protect their fellow citizens, and their remarkable record of courageous and dedicated service is truly worthy of celebration on this milestone occasion; now, therefore,

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Texas State Guard and extend to all those associated with the guard sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work; and, be it further

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