

By: Price

H.R. No. 953

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

22           WHEREAS, At the same time, in cities large and small across  
23 the nation, veterans and their fellow citizens gather in cemeteries  
24 and other public places to remember fallen comrades and to pay

1 tribute to those who died to protect our liberty and our republic;  
2 these ceremonies are also graced by the stirring echoes of "Taps,"  
3 and by tradition, the United States flag is briskly raised to full  
4 staff at the beginning of the day and then lowered slowly to half  
5 staff, where it remains until noon, when it is raised to full staff  
6 again; and

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

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