

By: Shofner

H.C.R. No. 146

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 it is fitting that U.S. Army veteran
4 Rickey Dudley Wittner be awarded this prestigious honor; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Houston, Rickey Wittner enlisted in the
6 U.S. Army in August 1969 and underwent helicopter training at Fort
7 Eustis, Virginia, before beginning his service in the Vietnam War
8 with the U.S. Army 242nd Assault Support Helicopter Company, 269th
9 Aviation Battalion; and

10 WHEREAS, On July 10, 1970, Specialist Fourth Class Wittner
11 was serving as crew chief on a helicopter that was resupplying river
12 patrol boats near Dau Tieng, Vietnam; the aircraft was struck by
13 heavy enemy fire, and the subsequent crash and explosion seriously
14 injured all passengers on board, with Specialist Wittner being
15 thrown from the helicopter; without regard for his own safety, he
16 repeatedly entered the flaming wreckage to rescue those trapped
17 inside; demonstrating remarkable bravery, he sustained severe
18 burns on his hands while extinguishing flames on the clothing of
19 those he rescued, and his efforts ultimately helped save the lives
20 of 12 people; and

21 WHEREAS, In recognition of his actions that day, Specialist
22 Wittner was awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism; he also
23 received the Purple Heart and the Air Medal; following the
24 completion of his active-duty army service in 1975 at the rank of

1 Specialist Fifth Class, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve,
2 transferring to the Texas Army National Guard headquarters company
3 in Marshall as a member of the 5th Battalion, 112th Armor; in 1987,
4 he was honorably discharged at the rank of sergeant; and

5 WHEREAS, Rickey Wittner distinguished himself through his
6 acts of extraordinary courage, patriotism, and selflessness in the
7 Vietnam War, and it is indeed fitting that he be honored with the
8 highest military award conferred by the State of Texas; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby direct the governor of the State of Texas to award the Texas
12 Legislative Medal of Honor to U.S. Army veteran Rickey Dudley
13 Wittner in recognition of his valiant military service.