By: Holt H.R. No. 10

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Will Chesney of Lumberton rendered exceptional service to his country during his years as a U.S. Navy SEAL; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chesney joined the elite Navy SEAL ranks in 2003, and he later deployed to Afghanistan with SEAL Team 6; upon his return to the states, he embarked on K-9 handler training and was paired with a Belgian Malinois named Cairo; he and Cairo continued their work together in Virginia, and in 2009 and 2010, the pair were sent to the Middle East for duty; ultimately, they were selected for Operation Neptune Spear, a daring mission to capture Osama bin Laden, the architect of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; on May 2, 2011, Mr. Chesney and Cairo, who was trained to detect explosives and weapons, helped a Navy SEAL contingent conduct the raid at bin Laden's compound in Pakistan; Cairo had finished his check of the main building's lower floors when word came that the mission was complete: bin Laden had been killed in his third-floor bedroom; and

WHEREAS, Following the successful operation, President Barack Obama awarded Mr. Chesney and his fellow SEAL Team 6 members the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States; subsequently deployed again, Mr. Chesney returned to Afghanistan as a SEAL operator and was seriously wounded when he sustained a traumatic brain injury from a grenade blast; no longer able to take part in Navy SEAL missions, and suffering from chronic pain, depression, and post-traumatic stress

disorder, he found solace in visiting Cairo at the navy kennels; he went on to adopt Cairo after the K-9 was officially retired, and the two spent a year together before Cairo's passing on April 2, 2015; a book that Mr. Chesney wrote about him, *No Ordinary Dog: My Partner from the SEAL Teams to the Bin Laden Raid*, was published in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating the utmost dedication and bravery during his years in uniform, Will Chesney upheld the highest ideals of the United States armed forces, and his fellow citizens owe him a lasting debt of gratitude; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 90th Texas Legislature hereby commend Will Chesney for his distinguished service as a U.S. Navy SEAL and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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