

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established
2 by the 58th Texas Legislature to honor gallant and intrepid service
3 by a member of the state military forces of Texas, and through his
4 courageous actions during battle in World War II, Colonel M. B.
5 Etheredge of Huntsville distinguished himself as a worthy recipient
6 of this prestigious honor; and

7 WHEREAS, Raised in East Texas, Col. Etheredge was serving as
8 superintendent of a small school district in Damon when the United
9 States entered the war; resigning his position, he enlisted in the
10 army as a private in 1942; after completing basic training he was
11 sent to noncommissioned officers' school and, after only eight days
12 there, to officers' candidate school in Fort Benning, Georgia,
13 where he graduated on February 5, 1943; and

14 WHEREAS, On the night of March 12-13, 1944, Col. Etheredge
15 was assistant commander of a combat patrol when it came under heavy
16 machine-gun fire north of Carano, Italy; disregarding the bullets
17 flying all about him, he personally led his squad in a successful
18 assault on the machine gun; when a second machine gun erupted, he
19 again braved the barrage as he directed his men in laying down fire,
20 allowing the main part of the patrol to advance against the gun and
21 silence it; and

22 WHEREAS, Farther along, a third strong point opened heavy
23 fire; once more, Col. Etheredge moved about aggressively in the
24 midst of this attack, developing a strong firing line and enabling

1 the main body of the patrol to skirt the house and continue on its
2 mission; altogether, the patrol killed at least 10 Germans,
3 captured 12, and knocked out two machine guns, and Col. Etheredge's
4 remarkable gallantry and leadership in this operation earned for
5 him a Silver Star; and

6 WHEREAS, Two months later, on May 23, 1944, in Italy, Col.
7 Etheredge immediately took charge of Company "K," 30th Infantry
8 Regiment, when the commanding officer and other key personnel were
9 cut down; deciding to continue the attack, he ignored heavy fire to
10 move up and down a ditch for 75 yards, reorganizing his company and
11 bolstering its morale; though wounded in the leg, he then led his
12 men running and crawling into the face of steady small arms fire for
13 some 550 yards, rested them for 10 minutes, and then resumed the
14 assault, advancing another 250 yards, overrunning the objective and
15 organizing an all-around defensive position; and

16 WHEREAS, Col. Etheredge's actions were instrumental in
17 securing a vital battalion target, relieving pressure on two flank
18 companies, and opening a way for a third company to advance; his
19 critical role in this day's action was rewarded with the appendage
20 of an oak leaf cluster to his Silver Star; and

21 WHEREAS, Col. Etheredge subsequently commanded Company "K"
22 in France; there, on August 16, 1944, he once again exposed himself
23 to gunfire in the course of significantly assisting the American
24 advance; he was sitting atop a tank destroyer, directing its fire at
25 German-held buildings 200 yards distant, when he barely escaped a
26 machine-gun fusillade; and

27 WHEREAS, A platoon flanking the building then fell into

1 disarray and Col. Etheredge dashed across 75 yards of open ground
2 through more machine-gun fire to reorganize the group; choosing a
3 route that skirted the barbed wire outside the buildings, he next
4 led a 50-yard assault that captured 29 enemy soldiers, an anti-tank
5 gun, a mortar, large quantities of ammunition, and numerous
6 vehicles; in recognition of his bravery and decisive command, he
7 received a second oak leaf cluster; and

8 WHEREAS, During the war Col. Etheredge also received two
9 Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts; he was eventually discharged
10 with the highest efficiency rating of any officer discharged from
11 the Fourth Army; this dauntless soldier later served three terms in
12 the Texas Legislature and taught for 33 years at Sam Houston State
13 University; and

14 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor is the highest
15 commendation Texans can bestow on members of our state military
16 forces, and the outstanding valor manifested by Col. Etheredge on
17 repeated occasions most assuredly merits the award of our state's
18 supreme military honor; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby confer the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor on Colonel M. B.
21 Etheredge in recognition of his heroic service and express to him
22 our deepest appreciation on behalf of all his fellow Texans; and, be
23 it further

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Col. Etheredge as an expression of highest regard by
3 the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

Ellis
Kolkhorst

David Swihart

President of the Senate

Jim Caddick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 27 was adopted by the House on May 6, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Robert Hawey
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 27 was adopted by the Senate on May 28, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Lacey Gault
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 20 JUN 03

Date

RICK PERRY

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
4:30 pm O'CLOCK

JUN 22 2003
Kevin Shea
Secretary of State