

is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for entities unless the use of the funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

TEXAS S. CON. RES. 22

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, at the request of the Secretary of State of the State of Texas, I am officially entering Senate Concurrent Resolution 22, as passed by the 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009 of the State of Texas, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 22

Whereas, The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest decoration for valor in combat awarded to members of the United States armed forces; generally presented to recipients by the president of the United States on congress's behalf, it is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

Whereas, First authorized in 1861 for United States Navy and Marine Corps personnel and for United States Army soldiers the following year, Medals of Honor are awarded sparingly and bestowed only on those individuals performing documented acts of gallant heroism against an enemy force; and

Whereas, Since congress authorized the award, 70 Medals of Honor have been accredited to the State of Texas, yet other Texans have similarly distinguished themselves by acts of courageous gallantry in combat no less deserving of such recognition; one such individual is Marcelino Serna, a native of Mexico whose unflinching and selfless bravery and acts of uncommon valor on the battlefields of World War I made him one of Texas' most decorated heroes; and

Whereas, Born in the Mexican state of Chihuahua in 1896, he came to the United States as a young man in search of a better life, working various jobs in Texas, Kansas, and Colorado; and

Whereas, In 1917, Mr. Serna was working in Colorado when the United States, unable to remain neutral any longer while war raged in Europe, declared war on Germany; later that year, federal officials in Denver, Colorado, gathered a group of men and held them until their draft status could be verified; and

Whereas, Included in this group, Mr. Serna chose not to wait for such verification and instead volunteered for service in the United States Army; after only three weeks of training, 20-year-old Private Serna was shipped to England, where he was assigned to the 355th Infantry of the 89th Division, a unit that was to see action in some of the most arduous campaigns of the war; and

Whereas, By the time the unit arrived in France, Private Serna's status as a noncitizen had come to light, and he was consequently offered a discharge from the army; given the opportunity to return home, Private Serna refused the discharge, choosing to stay with his unit as it began its advance toward the Meuse River and Argonne Forest in northeastern France; and

Whereas, At Saint Mihiel, Private Serna's unit was moving through thick brush when a German machine gunner opened fire, killing 12 American soldiers; with his lieutenant's permission, Private Serna, a scout, contin-

ued forward, dodging machine-gun fire until he reached the gunner's left flank; and

Whereas, Having come through a hail of bullets unscathed, despite being hit twice in the helmet, Private Serna got close enough to lob four grenades into the machine-gun nest, killing six enemy soldiers and taking into custody the eight survivors, who quickly surrendered to the lone American soldier; and

Whereas, This encounter was followed shortly by an even more astounding feat when, during his second scouting mission in the Meuse-Argonne campaign, Private Serna captured 24 German soldiers with his Enfield rifle and grenades, an episode that began when he spied a sniper walking on a trench bank; and

Whereas, Although the sniper was about 200 yards away, Private Serna shot and wounded him, then followed the wounded German's trail into a trench, where he discovered several more enemy soldiers; opening fire, Private Serna killed three of the enemy and scattered the others in that initial burst; and

Whereas, Frequently changing positions, Private Serna fooled the enemy into thinking they were under fire from several Americans, keeping up the ruse until he was close enough to lob three grenades into the German dugout; in about 45 minutes of furious action, Private Serna managed to kill 26 German soldiers and capture another 24, whom he held captive by himself until his unit arrived; and

Whereas, Enduring several months of combat action largely unharmed, Private Serna was shot in both legs by a sniper four days before the Armistice; while he was convalescing in an army hospital in France, General John J. Pershing, commander-in-chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, decorated Private Serna with the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest American combat medal; and

Whereas, Private Serna also received two French Croix de Guerre with Palm medals, the French Medaille Militaire, the French Commemorative Medal, the Italian Cross of Merit, the World War I Victory Medal, the Victory Medal with three campaign bars, the Saint Mihiel Medal, the Verdun Medal, and two Purple Hearts; and

Whereas, Discharged from the army in 1919, Marcelino Serna settled in El Paso, where he became a United States citizen, entered the civil service, and lived out his retirement years until his death in 1992; although he lived the most ordinary of lives after the war, Mr. Serna was, for a brief moment in time, an extraordinary hero whose remarkable feats of bravery under fire elevated him into the pantheon of American heroes; and

Whereas, In 1993, Texas Congressman Ronald D. Coleman introduced a measure in the 103rd Congress to waive certain statutory time limits on awarding the Medal of Honor and thus bestow on Marcelino Serna the proper recognition he so richly deserves; unfortunately, the measure did not receive a proper hearing, thereby denying the legacy of Mr. Serna its proper place in history; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to reopen consideration of this case to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to World War I hero Marcelino Serna; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with

the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

HONORING JACKSON POLICE CHIEF
RICK STAPLES

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rick Staples, a long-time public servant who will retire as Chief of the Jackson Police Department on September 18. Under Chief Staples, the Jackson Police Department has dedicatedly served our community, and his leadership has proven to be an example for both veterans and new officers alike.

Rick Staples was born and raised in Madison County, which I am honored to represent in this Chamber. After graduating from Jackson High School in 1970, he attended college at Jackson State Community College before graduating from the prestigious Northwestern University Police Administration training program.

Following his graduation from the Northwestern University Police Administration training program, he attained the rank of lieutenant and worked his way up through the ranks until, on October 12, 1989, Rick was promoted to Chief of Police, a position he has held ever since.

During his tenure serving West Tennessee, our law enforcement professionals have seen sweeping changes, from the computerization of records to the complete restructuring of the department. Chief Staples has managed a staff of 253 employees, an annual budget of more than \$15 million and been responsible for providing police services to a population of more than 62,000 residents. He helped create the Gang Task Force and Violent Crimes Task Force as well as start the first Citizen's Police Academy in Tennessee.

Among Chief Staples' proudest accomplishments is the partnership developed between the police department and our community. In 1994, the city council called for a crime summit between the officers and the residents of Jackson. The result was the establishment of the Community Policing Program, which has allowed for the relationship between the officers and the community to continue to grow, something in which Chief Staples takes tremendous pride.

In addition to his service to the Jackson Police Department, Chief Staples has volunteered as a Critical Incident Debriefing for the Tennessee Public Safety Network as well as a personal security guard for celebrities at high-profile, local events such as the Cerebral Palsy Telethon and the Miss Tennessee Pageant.

Chief Staples' retirement is not an end to his service to the public. He has found a new challenge, accepting a position with a security firm located in Baghdad, Iraq. I trust that he will perform his new job with the same dedication, professionalism and perseverance as he has in his current position.

Madam Speaker, I have long been proud to call Ricky Staples my friend. I thank you and our colleagues for joining me in expressing