

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R8099 CLE-D

S.C.R. 15
By: Janek
Transportation & Homeland Security
4/11/2005
As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

No structure or road in Texas commemorates the tens of thousands of U.S. military men and women from Texas who have been awarded the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit, commonly known as the Purple Heart, for sacrifices made on the battlefield.

Similarly, Texas has no fitting tribute to the thousands of American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan who have received the Purple Heart for service to America in the current war against terrorism.

Specifically a combat decoration, the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the president of the United States to members of the armed forces who are wounded in conflict with an enemy force or while held by an enemy force as a prisoner of war. Established in 1782 during the Revolutionary War, the Purple Heart is also awarded posthumously to the next of kin of members of the armed forces who are killed or who die of a wound received in conflict with an enemy force.

Other states have named a state highway or bridge to memorialize members of the U.S. armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart; a bridge over Interstate Highway 59 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, for example, is known as The Military Order of the Purple Heart Memorial Bridge, while New Mexico has designated the entire length of Interstate 40 from the Texas state line to the Arizona state line as the Purple Heart Trail.

Designating a roadway or road structure in Texas would pay tribute to patriotic Americans who were wounded or killed in defense of our nation and encourage all Texans to learn about the history of the Purple Heart and to honor the recipients of this distinguished combat award.

RESOLVED

That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby request the Texas Department of Transportation to designate the new causeway bridge connecting Galveston Island and the Texas mainland as the Purple Heart Memorial Bridge.

That the secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the chair of the Texas Transportation Commission and to the executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation.