

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Jess and Peggy Johnson of Dallas have made a profound difference in the lives of countless veterans through their nonprofit organization Vet to Vet, which they founded in December 1994; and

WHEREAS, Just before Christmas of that year, the couple distributed hamburgers and coffee thermoses to 24 patients at the Dallas VA Hospital; their generosity was warmly received but the Johnsons soon discovered that they lacked sufficient supplies to provide gifts to each of the hundreds of patients in the transitional care unit; they returned the next day with thermoses for the others, and in the years since they have expanded their operation to include the Bonham, Waco, and Temple VA hospitals in addition to the Dallas location; they now provide 4,000 gifts to 1,600 patients each Christmas; in addition, they host monthly bingo games at the Bonham and Dallas locations and invite veterans to attend barbecues and lunches throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will host three fund-raisers in 2007 in support of Texas VA hospitals, including the facility in San Antonio, and the Johnsons would like to put Vet to Vet chapters in all 162 VA hospitals across the country; moreover, they are working to develop a Big Brother mentorship program that would match Iraq veterans with Vietnam veterans to help address the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, and they are building homes on land near the Dallas hospital for veterans and their families to live in free of charge during their rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, A veteran himself, Mr. Johnson served as a U.S. Army combat medic in the Vietnam War and as a U.S. Army Reserve weapons specialist and instructor at the JFK Special Warfare Center before retiring in 1999; he owns Town and Country Insurance and Global Venture Partners, which works with the U.S. government to provide

security detail and intelligence operations at key locations around the world, including volatile areas such as Baghdad, Iraq; highly decorated for his military service, he has received the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Combat Medical Badge, the Good Conduct Award, a Special Forces Tab, and two Purple Hearts, to name but a few of his honors; Mrs. Johnson is an international flight attendant in her 25th year with American Airlines, and she and her husband are the proud parents of two children, Jessica and Justin; and

WHEREAS, Our state and nation are fortunate to have men and women whose love for their country inspires them to take up military service, and the generous outreach of Jess and Peggy Johnson gives these individuals a much-needed reminder of the respect and gratitude they have earned through their sacrifices, their dedication, and their immense courage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas Legislature hereby commend Jess and Peggy Johnson for organizing and supporting the nonprofit organization Vet to Vet and extend to them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2886 was adopted by the House on May 28, 2007, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House