

House Resolution 181

By: Representatives Maxwell of the 17th and Richardson of the 19th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending CW2 Eric B. Thackston, recipient of The Air Medal; and for
- 2 other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, CW2 Eric B. Thackston, a native of Dallas, Georgia, was awarded The Air
- 4 Medal for his exceptional bravery and aviation skills as the Pilot-in-Command of the UH-60
- 5 MEDEVAC crew Talisman 73; and

- 6 WHEREAS, on July 23, 2004, the crews of Talisman 73 and Talisman 74 were alerted of a
- 7 9-line MEDEVAC call to evacuate multiple patients who had been critically injured by a
- 8 roadside Improvised Explosive Device and the ambush that followed; and

- 9 WHEREAS, pushing their Blackhawk helicopters to their maximum airspeed, the two crews
- 10 traveled the 35 miles to the landing zone in less than 13 minutes and, upon arrival,
- 11 discovered that the unit was still engaged with the enemy at the east end of the bridge and
- 12 reinforcements had not yet arrived; and

- 13 WHEREAS, Talisman 73 flew over the site to conduct a high recon and confirmed that the
- 14 only possible landing site was in the center of the bridge on a road flanked with high light
- 15 poles and divided by a guard rail, which was in close proximity to enemy fire; and

- 16 WHEREAS, without regard to their personal safety, the two crews maneuvered their
- 17 helicopters into the dangerous and difficult landing zone and unhesitatingly rushed to the aid
- 18 of the wounded; and

- 19 WHEREAS, as a result of their efforts, the lives of four coalition personnel were saved; and

- 20 WHEREAS, CW2 Thackston's courageous leadership and talent as an aviator, which he
- 21 displayed so honorably that day, have brought great pride to the Dallas community and the
- 22 State of Georgia.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body recognize CW2 Eric B. Thackston, recipient of The Air Medal, for
3 his brave and admirable service in the defense of the United States of America and the
4 liberation of the citizens of Iraq and commend the outstanding valor he displayed in the
5 events of July 23, 2004.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
7 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to CW2 Eric B. Thackston.