

1-1 By: Rodríguez S.C.R. No. 46
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed May 12, 2015; May 12, 2015, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; May 15, 2015, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 15, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9			X	
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established
1-17 to recognize gallant and intrepid service by a member of the state
1-18 or federal military forces, and United States Army Private
1-19 Marcelino Serna proved himself a deserving recipient of this
1-20 prestigious honor with his heroic actions during World War I; and

1-21 WHEREAS, Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1896, Mr. Serna came
1-22 to the United States as a young man and spent time in Texas, Kansas,
1-23 and Colorado; after the United States entered World War I in 1917,
1-24 he enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 20, and after
1-25 only three weeks of training, he was shipped overseas with the 355th
1-26 Infantry, 89th Division; when his superior officers in France
1-27 learned that he was not a United States citizen, they gave him the
1-28 opportunity to return home, but Private Serna chose to stay and
1-29 fight; and

1-30 WHEREAS, Private Serna quickly established himself as a
1-31 remarkable soldier, and on at least two occasions, he demonstrated
1-32 exceptional resourcefulness and courage; during an engagement near
1-33 the French town of Saint Mihiel, 12 members of his unit were hit by
1-34 fire from an enemy machine gun, and Private Serna obtained
1-35 permission from his lieutenant to scout out the gun emplacement on
1-36 his own; moving through heavy fire, and surviving two rounds that
1-37 were deflected by his helmet, he tossed four hand grenades into the
1-38 machine gun nest, killing six of the enemy; he then took the eight
1-39 survivors captive; and

1-40 WHEREAS, Shortly thereafter, during the Meuse-Argonne
1-41 campaign, Private Serna embarked on a second lone scouting mission;
1-42 he began by wounding a German sniper with a shot from 200 yards,
1-43 then followed the injured man into a trench; firing and hurling
1-44 grenades in all directions to make it seem as if he were part of a
1-45 larger force, he shot three German soldiers immediately, then
1-46 attacked an enemy dugout, felling 26 more and capturing 24; he
1-47 single-handedly held the prisoners at gunpoint until other members
1-48 of his unit arrived; and

1-49 WHEREAS, Private Serna continued to serve in combat until the
1-50 end of the war, receiving a wound in each leg, and while he was
1-51 recovering in a French hospital, he was presented with the
1-52 Distinguished Service Cross from the American commander in France,
1-53 General John J. Pershing; he also earned the World War I Victory
1-54 Medal with five stars, the Victory Medal with three campaign bars,
1-55 the Saint Mihiel Medal, the Verdun Medal, and two Purple Hearts; he
1-56 was further decorated by the governments of France, Italy, and the
1-57 United Kingdom, receiving two French Croix de Guerre with Palm
1-58 Medals, the French Medaille Militaire, the French Commemorative
1-59 Medal, the British Medal of Honor, and the Italian Cross of Merit;
1-60 and

1-61 WHEREAS, After returning to the United States, Mr. Serna

2-1 became a United States citizen in 1924 and settled in El Paso, where
2-2 he lived until his death in 1992; he was the most decorated Texas
2-3 veteran of World War I, winning every major military award short of
2-4 the Congressional Medal of Honor, and petitions have been put forth
2-5 on several occasions to grant him that commendation as well; and

2-6 WHEREAS, Marcelino Serna's courageous battlefield actions
2-7 during World War I have been recognized with a host of illustrious
2-8 commendations, and it is indeed appropriate that he be honored with
2-9 the highest military award granted by the state in which he made his
2-10 home; now, therefore, be it

2-11 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-12 hereby direct the governor of the State of Texas to posthumously
2-13 award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Marcelino Serna in
2-14 recognition of his valiant efforts during World War I.

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