R E S O L U T I O N

1    WHEREAS, Former State Representative Rick Noriega has been
2  promoted to brigadier general in the Texas Army National Guard, and
3  this achievement represents a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to
4  this distinguished Texan for his exemplary record of service to
5  this state and nation; and

6    WHEREAS, Rick Noriega enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in
7  1980, in the wake of the Iran hostage crisis, and subsequently
8  joined the National Guard; he served as an airborne school and
9  service commander for the 143rd Infantry Detachment, as an aide to a
10  brigadier general, and as aide-de-camp to the adjutant general of
11  Texas; and

12    WHEREAS, Called to active duty in 2004 in support of
13  Operation Enduring Freedom, General Noriega was deployed to
14  Afghanistan, where he held the post of deputy garrison commander at
15  Kabul Military Training Center; he served in Afghanistan for 14
16  months, until August 2005; in 2006, he was assigned as the Laredo
17  Border Sector commander in Operation Jump Start, and in 2011, he was
18  named commander of the guard's 71st Theater Information Operations
19  Group; with his promotion to brigadier general in 2013, he became
20  assistant division commander--support for the 36th Infantry
21  Division; and

22    WHEREAS, General Noriega's commendations include the Combat
23  Infantryman Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Meritorious
24  Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement

1 Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Global War on

2 Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; and

3     WHEREAS, A native of Houston, General Noriega earned his

4 bachelor's degree from the University of Houston in 1984 and went on

5 to receive a master's degree in public administration from the John

6 F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1990; he

7 also holds a certificate in advanced international affairs from the

8 George Bush School at Texas A&M University; and

9     WHEREAS, From 1999 to 2009, General Noriega represented House

10 District 145 for five terms in the Texas Legislature, during which

11 time he served as budget and oversight chair of the Defense Affairs

12 and State-Federal Relations Committee and as vice chair of the

13 Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; his extensive

14 record of public service also includes his outstanding performance

15 as incident commander for the City of Houston's Hurricane Katrina

16 relief efforts at the George R. Brown Convention Center, where he

17 coordinated medical, employment, travel, housing, and food

18 services for thousands of refugees; and

19     WHEREAS, In civilian life, General Noriega has served as

20 project manager for the Communities in Schools program and taught

21 in the Houston schools and at Houston Community College; he is

22 currently the president and CEO of AVANCE, Inc., a nonprofit

23 offering early childhood education, parenting, and comprehensive

24 family services to families in need; and

25     WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Rick Noriega has enjoyed the

26 love and support of his two sons, Alex and Ricky; and

27     WHEREAS, Texas is fortunate to have such passionate and

1 engaged leaders as Rick Noriega, who has answered the call to serve

2 his state and nation in both peace and war, and he may indeed

3 reflect with pride on his countless achievements as he continues

4 his service in the Texas Army National Guard; now, therefore, be it

5      RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas

6 Legislature hereby congratulate Rick Noriega on his promotion to

7 brigadier general in the Texas Army National Guard and extend to him

8 sincere best wishes for continued success in his important work;

9 and, be it further

10      RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

11 prepared for General Noriega as an expression of high regard by the

12 Texas House of Representatives.

                                           Farrar

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 3511 was adopted by the House on May 31, 2015, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House