

Honorable State Senator,

I am (Retired U.S. Army Sergeant) Howard E. Ray, a decorated survivor of the Fort Hood terrorist Massacre and Executive Director of Survivors of Gun Violence Against Gun Control and. Please take a few moments to consider my position on Texas gun laws and the improvements that need to be made.

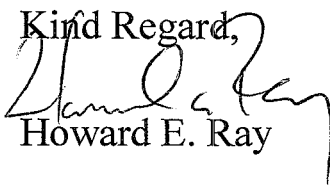
At about 11am on November 5, 2009 I was on my way to pick up my sister-in-law from an accident she just gotten into in Temple, TX. Upon picking her up and securing her vehicle we grabbed a bite to eat at Taco Bell and then headed back to Killeen, TX. At this point it was getting closer to 1:00pm and the time was quickly approaching an appointment I had on Fort Hood. As we pulled up into the drive my wife's sister got out my truck and headed inside. I quickly backed out of the drive realizing I may be late and miss my appointment. That is when I realized I had my handgun on me and that day would be the time I get checked at the gate to Fort Hood and then I would go to jail. This led me to drive back into the driveway and run inside and put my Taurus PT 1911 .45 on my dresser. Thankfully I made it on to post in time for my appointment—So I thought. The next twenty minutes would be the same as always but on minute 21 everything would change my life forever. From out of nowhere a couple of ladies came in one with a little blood on them and the other unharmed and they said “We needed to get out of here there is a shooting happening next-door.” The catastrophic events of the Fort Hood Terrorist massacre had unfolded initially in the building right next to us. In the next few moments the shots began to ring out within the complex. I and other soldiers helped get a couple of soldiers into a closet because they were cane and wheelchair bound. We stacked boxes in front of them and closed the door placing a refrigerator in front of the entry to the closet. Then I helped evacuate everyone out the door on the east side of the building. Blasts of ammunition increasingly rang out and as I left the room gunshots were fired at me. Fortunately, they missed. Before exiting the building, despite being shot at, I noticed the woman who known to us as our group facilitator had frozen up just for a moment. I grabbed her wrist and headed south to the parking lot. The group split up some going east and north. We crouched down behind a car and I attempted to look for my vehicle but was unable to find my truck. A man then screamed “He’s coming around, he’s coming around”, my instincts kicked in and I swept back for my pistol to engage this man—I was trained and well competent to end this catastrophic moment. However, I was only able to look down in to a hole that seemed like a great abyss because nothing was in the holster. Plan B then was to get the hell out of there and so I said to the woman “We have to get out of here! “ In a clam but urgent way, I coached the woman through what we needed to do in just a quick moment. I told her we had to run to the wood line and that no matter what do not stop till she got to the small berm that was just ahead, then fall down. At this time she was in tears and was quite panicked. It was time to run like we never had before and we tore across the parking lot. I kept her in front of me as we ran to the wood line and I kept checking my six to identify where the shooter was. In a flash the shooter came around the corner of the building and raised his gun at us and began engaging us with his firearm. Several shots snapped off the

ground. As we ran, I became angry. I was so mad! Not because I didn't have a gun at this point, but because I was going to miss my English II final exam that night if I got hit. To this day I do not know why that went through my head for that split second but it did. This hysterical moment was transcended in the next second into a grim reality. I was indeed a combat soldier that just had to run from the fight instead of boldly face the enemy and eliminate such a threat because I was unarmed. Ultimately, we got out of the area and into a safer place. Since that day I have constantly been consumed on the failure of my part for not taking out that threat that day. Moreover, I have been inundated with the thoughts of grief not knowing how many more people I could have saved. I have been inundated with the fact that my children and wife almost lost their father and husband. Finally, I consider the failure of the rules and regulations in place that day that set me in that situation. Neither I nor anyone should have been placed in that situation. Good men and women died! These brothers and sisters of America's finest military should have been able to defend themselves with the appropriate means of force to stop this incident from continuing or ever happening. The award that they issued to me for saving lives that day serves as a constant reminder that our brothers and sisters that day were not better off unarmed.

It is very urgent that we do not allow ourselves to become hostages to these situations as mentioned above. I encourage you to pass legislation that will protect all citizens' Constitutional rights from state and federal encroachment. Furthermore, I urge you to pass legislation to amend Texas laws that prohibit the carry of firearms on university campuses and other restricted places. This action will indeed save the lives of Texas residents, the ideals of the Constitution and place confidence back into our elected representatives.

Honorable Senators, I am more than willing to be available to testify on any committee hearing that will favor the citizens of the great state of Texas.

Kind Regard,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard E. Ray", written over the typed name.

Howard E. Ray

RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

For use of this form, see AR 600-8-22; the proponent agency is DCS, G-1.

For valor/heroism/wartime and all awards higher than MSM, refer to special instructions in Chapter 3, AR 600-8-22.

1. TO CDR, WTB FORT HOOD, TX 76544	2. FROM B CO. 1st BN, Warrior Transition Brigade FORT HOOD, TX 76544	3. DATE (YYYYMMDD) 20100113
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PART I - SOLDIER DATA

4. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) RAY, HOWARD E	5. RANK SGT	6. SSN
7. ORGANIZATION B CO WARRIORS FT. HOOD, TX	8. PREVIOUS AWARDS AAM-5, ARCOM-1	
9. BRANCH OF SERVICE Army	10. RECOMMENDED AWARD ARCOM 1OLC	11. PERIOD OF AWARD a. FROM 20091105 b. TO 20091105
12. REASON FOR AWARD		
12a. INDICATE REASON ACH	12b. INTERIM AWARD IF YES, STATE AWARD GIVEN YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12c. POSTHUMOUS YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		13. PROPOSED PRESENTATION DATE (YYYYMMDD) 20100129

PART II - RECOMMENDER DATA

14. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) HOPEWELL, CLIFFORD A.	15. ADDRESS CRDAMC ATTN: MCXI-TBI FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544	
16. TITLE/POSITION OIC, TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CLINIC	17. RANK MAJ	
18. RELATIONSHIP TO AWARDEE Doctor	19. SIGNATURE HOPEWELL, CLIFFORD, ALAN, 121838532	

PART III - JUSTIFICATION AND CITATION DATA (Use specific bullet examples of meritorious acts or service)

20. ACHIEVEMENTS

ACHIEVEMENT #1
SGT Howard E. Ray demonstrated immediate and exceptional judgment and is personally responsible for the escape and safety of both staff and six Soldiers during the Mass Casualty event on 5 November 2009. Upon hearing semi-automatic weapons fire from an adjacent building, SGT Ray immediately and accurately identified this as continuous combat weapons fire which endangered the lives of literally hundreds of nearby Soldiers and civilians who were located in the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and SRP/PDHRA building complex.

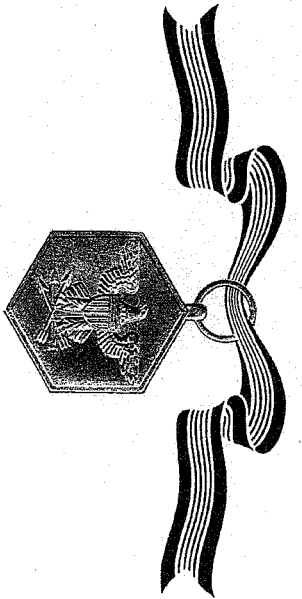
ACHIEVEMENT #2
As the weapons fire approached the TBI II building in which one staff member was conducting therapy with six wounded Soldiers (one in a wheelchair), SGT Ray accurately and immediately recognized the seriousness of this mascal event which eventually took the lives of 13 others. He took direct control of the situation in order to evacuate safely this trapped group. SGT Ray's exceptional military training and his ability to remain calm in the face of danger directly resulted in safety and escape of all of the group with whom he was trapped.

ACHIEVEMENT #3
SGT Ray demonstrated exceptional judgment and leadership by directing the group to immediate safety and he provided superior combat leadership by issuing directions which enabled his group to evade and avoid harm. SGT Ray was a pillar of strength and support as direct fire from the shooter was aimed specifically at the group. SGT Ray's skilled knowledge of combat enabled him to act without hesitation. If it were not for SGT Ray risking his own personal safety, some in the group undoubtedly would have been killed or wounded.

ACHIEVEMENT #4
SGT Ray's military experience was vital in the escape of seven staff and Soldiers. The targeted group trusted SGT Ray's guidance and feel he should be commended for his bravery and leadership. SGT Ray's extraordinary actions on 5 November 2009 and his aggressiveness in protecting staff and his fellow Soldiers are qualities possessed by only the most experienced and distinguished of Soldiers.

21. PROPOSED CITATION

FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN ACTION TAKEN DURING THE FORT HOOD SHOOTING INCIDENT. SGT RAY DEMONSTRATED EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE DURING A DEADLY ATTACK UPON HIS CLINIC DURING WHICH HE PLACED HIS OWN LIFE AT RISK AND UNDOUBTEDLY SAVED LIVES. HIS ACTIONS REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIM, THE WARRIOR TRANSITION BRIGADE, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS AWARDED

THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

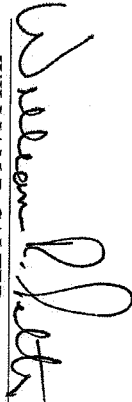
TO
SERGEANT HOWARD E. RAY
BRAVO COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, WARRIOR TRANSITION BRIGADE


FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN ACTION TAKEN DURING THE FORT HOOD SHOOTING INCIDENT. SGT RAY DEMONSTRATED EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE DURING A DEADLY ATTACK UPON HIS CLINIC DURING WHICH HE PLACED HIS OWN LIFE AT RISK AND UNDOUBTEDLY SAVED LIVES. HIS ACTIONS REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIM, THE WARRIOR TRANSITION BRIGADE, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

FROM 5 NOVEMBER 2009 TO 5 NOVEMBER 2009


Permanent Orders 014-03, 14 January 2010
Warrior Transition Brigade
Fort Hood, Texas 76544




WILLIAM R. SALTER
COL, AR
Commanding



Central Texas Students For Concealed Carry



Honorable Texas State Senator:

As University students, both men and women, minorities and majority of the State of Texas, we implore you to stand strong in the support and fight for our Second Amendment Rights. We face a critical time in our nation's and state's history; our Constitutional liberties are being suppressed by law makers within and outside of this great state. There are those in our nation's capital who wish to unlawfully placate that very sacred amendment that allows all American men and women everywhere to remain without fear of tyranny and evil. **Therefore, we as citizens and students of state-sponsored institutions encourage you to continue to do as you swore when you took an oath of office: Defend all Constitutional rights for all citizens. This means defending our rights both as citizens and as students. We strongly encourage you to pass measures this legislative session to amend the Texas education code, Texas health and safety codes, and Texas penal codes that currently prohibit lawful citizens from carrying firearms.** This should be done to allow men and women the right to lawfully carry concealed handguns on all public university campuses. **Our constitutional rights do not end at the front door of a university or other entity simply because we place a title on our name such as student—First and foremost we are Texans and American citizens.** In fact, the Constitution to The United States declares that right “shall not be infringed”- **Barring men and women from carrying and carrying concealed are an infringement on that right.** Furthermore, men and women eligible to carry a concealed handgun have met the requirements by the State of Texas to carry a concealed handgun. Therefore, since the concealed handgun license is a state issued license, the public & state-sponsored university should not be immune from honoring the state-sponsored concealed handgun license. **Our hope and prayer is that you will continue to support those liberties that you have sworn to defend and those liberties that we as citizens and students hold very dear.**

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at all about our concerns.

We thank you for your time.

Kindest Regards,

Central Texas Students for Concealed Carry

Howard E. Ray

Kanitta O. A. Hamilton

Courtney L. Jennings

Bryan J. Herring

5308 Lions Gate Lane
Killeen, Texas 76549

DVC

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