

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 29

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Nathan Ross Chapman of the
2 United States Army served this country with exceptional valor and
3 gave his life in its cause on January 4, 2002, at the age of 31, in
4 Afghanistan; and

5 WHEREAS, The first U.S. soldier to die from enemy fire in the
6 Afghanistan campaign, Sergeant Chapman had been deployed to that
7 country in November 2001; at the time of his death he was engaged in
8 a joint Special Forces-CIA-Delta Force mission to interdict Taliban
9 and al Qaeda members who were trying to flee over the border into
10 Pakistan; Sergeant Chapman had just left a meeting to coordinate
11 efforts with Afghan tribal leaders when his group was ambushed, and
12 although he returned fire, Sergeant Chapman suffered mortal
13 injuries; and

14 WHEREAS, Born to Will and Lynn Chapman on April 23, 1970, at
15 Andrews Air Force Base, this courageous soldier grew up in a
16 military family; he attended Centerville High School, in
17 Centerville, Ohio, where he belonged to the wrestling team, and he
18 joined the army after his graduation in 1988; in his enlistment
19 papers, he identified San Antonio as his hometown because of family
20 ties there; and

21 WHEREAS, Over the course of his career, Sergeant Chapman
22 served in Panama during the U.S. campaign in that country in 1989,
23 in Operation Desert Storm two years later, and in Haiti; after
24 earning admission to the rigorous Special Forces School at Fort

1 Bragg in North Carolina, the skilled marksman trained as a
2 communications specialist; stationed for most of his army years at
3 Fort Lewis in Washington state, he was assigned to the Fifth Special
4 Forces Group at Fort Campbell in Kentucky shortly after September
5 11, 2001; and

6 WHEREAS, Wholly dedicated to the army, Sergeant Chapman found
7 great joy in his work and in life; for relaxation, he especially
8 enjoyed jet skiing and snowboarding, as well as working with wood;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Above all, he cherished his wife, Renae, and their
11 two young children, Amanda and Brandon; and

12 WHEREAS, Nathan Chapman was posthumously awarded the Combat
13 Infantryman Badge, the Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star with valor;
14 at Fort Lewis, the drive in front of the Special Forces headquarters
15 was renamed in his honor and his name was engraved on a special
16 monument; a life-sized statue of Sergeant Chapman, made possible
17 through private donations, is being erected in front of the
18 courthouse in Georgetown, Texas, where it will be dedicated to
19 Sergeant Chapman and all who have served in Operation Enduring
20 Freedom; and

21 WHEREAS, Americans owe a profound debt to their military
22 personnel, who are called on to bear enormous, often unimaginable
23 burdens; the efforts and sacrifice of these men and women in our
24 country's behalf are deserving of our deepest respect and
25 gratitude; and

26 WHEREAS, Through his unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and
27 his country, Sergeant Chapman embodied the highest ideals of the

1 armed services, and the blessing of his life will be forever
2 cherished by those who were privileged to share in his love and
3 friendship; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
5 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
6 Sergeant First Class Nathan Ross Chapman and extend sincere
7 sympathy to the members of his family and his many friends; and, be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family, and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sergeant
12 First Class Nathan Ross Chapman.