

By: Campbell

H.R. No. 37

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot express the heartache felt at the loss
2 in Iraq of Lance Corporal Elias Torrez III on April 9, 2004, at the
3 age of 21; and

4 WHEREAS, A member of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st
5 Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Corporal Torrez
6 sustained mortal injuries in an ambush of his convoy in the city of
7 Sa'dah; he was returning to his camp at Al Qaim, after transporting
8 a squad of Marines to a nearby town, when his convoy was attacked;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, This courageous young man joined the Marine Corps
11 just months after graduating from Veribest High School in the
12 spring of 2001; he left Texas for boot camp in San Diego,
13 California, on September 10 of that year and joined the 3rd
14 Battalion, 7th Marines, in February 2002; and

15 WHEREAS, Corporal Torrez was deployed to Iraq at the
16 beginning of the Iraqi campaign and completed a nine-month tour of
17 duty in that country before returning to the United States; after a
18 month at home and a short time at his base in Twentynine Palms,
19 California, he embarked for Iraq for a second tour of duty in
20 February 2004; Corporal Torrez served as a gunner, combat vehicle
21 driver, and radio operator; and

22 WHEREAS, Those who worked with this outstanding Texan were
23 impressed by his utter fearlessness and unswerving determination;
24 intensely proud of his mission as a Marine, he had decided to make

1 the corps his career and had set his sights on becoming a recruiter;
2 already he was serving as an admired and esteemed mentor to younger
3 colleagues; and

4 WHEREAS, Although his assignment in Iraq was a hazardous one,
5 the man known affectionately as E. T. took its dangers in his
6 stride; his free spirit, easygoing manner, and happy outlook
7 endeared him to a host of friends, as did his unfailing ability to
8 make people laugh; and

9 WHEREAS, Corporal Torrez was born in Del Rio on January 28,
10 1983; a talented athlete, he played six-man football in high school
11 and enjoyed the loyal support of family members and friends, who
12 followed his team to gridiron contests around West Texas; proud of
13 his family and greatly cherished in return, he kept in touch
14 faithfully after his deployment through many letters home; and

15 WHEREAS, Through his unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and
16 his country, Corporal Torrez embodied the highest ideals of the
17 armed services, and the blessing of his life will be forever
18 cherished by those who were privileged to share in his love and
19 friendship; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
21 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay special tribute to the
22 life of Lance Corporal Elias Torrez III and extend sincere sympathy
23 to the members of his family: to his mother and stepfather,
24 Veronica and Bill Norris; to his father and stepmother, Elias
25 Torres, Jr., and Martha Ramirez Torres; to his brother, Pete
26 Torres, and stepbrother, Rigo Ramirez; to his grandparents, Maria
27 Garza, Elias Torres, Sr., and Petrita Torres; to his

1 great-grandmother, Anita Torres; and to the many other relatives
2 and friends who mourn his passing; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
5 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lance
6 Corporal Elias Torrez III.