

By: McReynolds

H.R. No. 210

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of Chief Warrant Officer 3
2 Wesley Charles "Chuck" Fortenberry of Troy suffered an immeasurable
3 loss with the death of this valiant man in Iraq on April 11, 2004, at
4 the age of 38; and

5 WHEREAS, Based at Fort Hood with the U.S. Army, Chief
6 Fortenberry was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 227th
7 Aviation Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, and had been in Iraq for
8 about two months; on April 11 he was flying an Apache attack
9 helicopter on a reconnaissance mission with another pilot when a
10 fuel convoy was halted by an improvised explosive device just west
11 of the Baghdad International Airport; once the convoy was
12 immobilized, it was attacked by insurgents; and

13 WHEREAS, With their ammunition running low, the convoy called
14 for assistance; Chief Fortenberry and his fellow officer
15 immediately turned around to engage the insurgents, and the pilots'
16 swift response is credited with saving the lives of the soldiers in
17 the convoy; during the firefight, a surface-to-air missile downed
18 Chief Fortenberry's aircraft; and

19 WHEREAS, The son of a military family, this courageous Texan
20 was born in Woodville on April 15, 1965, and graduated from Kirby
21 High School in 1983; he attended Stephen F. Austin State University
22 for a year before enlisting in the army in June 1984; over the
23 course of his career, he served in the 82nd Airborne and became a
24 Ranger, in addition to qualifying to fly helicopters; and

1 WHEREAS, Held in deep affection by his comrades, Chief
2 Fortenberry was also greatly admired for the many long hours he
3 devoted to his work, for his warm-hearted, generous nature, and for
4 the respect he accorded all he worked with, regardless of rank; and

5 WHEREAS, Among the many military honors he received were the
6 Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army
7 Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and Army
8 Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters; and

9 WHEREAS, Chief Fortenberry was the devoted husband of Cynthia
10 and the proud father of three sons, Benjamin, Alexander, and
11 Nicholas; and

12 WHEREAS, Through his unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and
13 his country, Chief Fortenberry embodied the highest ideals of the
14 armed services, and the blessing of his life will be forever
15 cherished by those who were privileged to share in his love and
16 friendship; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
18 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay special tribute to
19 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Wesley Charles "Chuck" Fortenberry and
20 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
21 Cynthia; to his sons, Benjamin, Alexander, and Nicholas; to his
22 parents, Kenneth Charles and Patricia Fortenberry; to his brothers,
23 Shawn and Aaron Fortenberry; and to all his other relatives and many
24 friends; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Chief

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1 Warrant Officer 3 Wesley Charles "Chuck" Fortenberry.