

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 270

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Justin R. Gower has rendered valiant
2 service in Iraq as a member of the United States Marines; and

3 WHEREAS, A graduate of Westwood High School in Austin,
4 Corporal Gower fulfilled a longtime ambition when he joined the
5 Marine Forces Reserve; after basic training at Camp Pendleton,
6 California, he was deployed to Iraq in August 2004 for a nine-month
7 tour of duty; and

8 WHEREAS, On November 19, 2004, Corporal Gower was serving as
9 a gunner on a Humvee patrolling Haditha Dam, the largest
10 hydroelectric dam in Iraq, when the vehicle struck a land mine;
11 though there were no fatalities, Corporal Gower and a fellow Texas
12 Marine sustained serious injuries; and

13 WHEREAS, Since that time, Corporal Gower has astounded his
14 doctors and family alike with his amazingly rapid recovery; in this
15 healing process, he may have been helped by his many years of
16 physical conditioning; a gifted athlete, he swam on both his high
17 school squad and on the Texas Gold Swim Team; and

18 WHEREAS, Offered swimming scholarships after his high school
19 graduation, Corporal Gower decided to remain in the Austin area,
20 where he worked and took classes at Austin Community College; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2004, Justin Gower married Kristin Chapman, whom
22 he had met through mutual friends; in consequence of his military
23 responsibilities, he was able to spend only two weeks with his new
24 wife before departing for boot camp; and

1 WHEREAS, Americans owe a profound debt to Corporal Gower and
2 to all the country's military personnel, for they are called on to
3 bear great, often unimaginable, burdens, and they render service
4 and sacrifice that is truly beyond measure; and

5 WHEREAS, Through his unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and
6 this nation, Corporal Gower embodies the highest ideals of the U.S.
7 armed forces, and it is indeed a privilege to join in welcoming him
8 home again; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
10 Legislature hereby honor Lance Corporal Justin Gower for his
11 steadfast service as a U.S. Marine and extend to him sincere best
12 wishes for his continuing recovery; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Corporal Gower as an expression of high regard by the
15 Texas House of Representatives.