

By: Keel

H.R. No. 579

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the heartache felt
2 at the loss of Lance Corporal Nicholas Samuel Valdez Perez of
3 Austin, who was killed in action in Iraq on September 3, 2004, at
4 the age of 19; and

5 WHEREAS, A dedicated young man in the United States Marine
6 Corps, Lance Corporal Perez was mortally injured by insurgents
7 while conducting a military maneuver west of Baghdad in Al Anbar
8 Province; and

9 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Perez was born and raised in Austin
10 and graduated with honors from Travis High School in 2003; he
11 participated in a number of sports, especially baseball and golf,
12 while growing up in the Capitol City, and he enjoyed video games,
13 dancing, fishing, skiing, movies, and travel; and

14 WHEREAS, He was also a gifted swimmer and worked as a
15 lifeguard for the City of Austin Aquatics, where his extraordinary
16 skill allowed him to begin service as a Lifeguard II and quickly
17 earned him promotion to Lifeguard III; during his tenure with the
18 department, Lance Corporal Perez received American Red Cross
19 certifications in CPR, lifeguard training, and first aid; he was a
20 valued employee, and his coworkers admired his strong work ethic
21 and dependability; and

22 WHEREAS, Since the age of nine, Nicholas Perez dreamed of
23 joining the Marines; he became a member of the Navy Junior Reserve
24 Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program in high school and enlisted

1 in the corps in July 2003; and

2 WHEREAS, Despite the dangerous nature of his assignment in
3 Iraq, this brave Texan took great pride in his work and was
4 committed to fulfilling his mission to the very best of his ability;
5 courageous and steadfast, he earned an Expert Rifleman Badge, the
6 Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Sea Service
7 Deployment Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, and the
8 Purple Heart; and

9 WHEREAS, Above all else, Nicholas Perez cherished his faith
10 and his family, and his warm heart, outgoing nature, and fun-loving
11 spirit will be sorely missed; and

12 WHEREAS, Our state and nation are fortunate to have young men
13 and women whose love of country leads them to military duty, and
14 time can never diminish the profound debt that Americans owe to
15 Lance Corporal Perez for the service he undertook and the sacrifice
16 he rendered; and

17 WHEREAS, The thoughts and prayers of many go out to the family
18 of this beloved young man; he was a Marine of honor and valor, and
19 those who knew and cherished him will forever carry him close in
20 their hearts; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Lance
23 Corporal Nicholas Samuel Valdez Perez and extend deepest sympathy
24 to the members of his family: to his mother, Yolanda Valdez; to his
25 father, Samuel Perez; to his sister, U.S. Marine Lance Corporal
26 Briana Y. Perez; and to his other relatives and many friends; and,
27 be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lance
4 Corporal Nicholas Samuel Valdez Perez.