

By: Uresti

H.R. No. 2114

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot express the heartache felt at the loss
2 of Lance Corporal Lance Tanner Graham of San Antonio, who died in
3 Iraq on May 7, 2005, at the age of 26; and

4 WHEREAS, Corporal Graham was a gunner and a member of the 4th
5 Reconnaissance Battalion detachment that was attached to Weapons
6 Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division,
7 Marine Forces Reserve; deployed to Iraq in March 2005, this
8 courageous Texan died in an attack on his convoy in Al Anbar
9 Province; and

10 WHEREAS, Lance Graham was born in Kankakee, Illinois, on
11 October 4, 1978, and graduated from Madison High School in San
12 Antonio; he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on February 26,
13 2003, and completed recruit training in San Diego, California,
14 before attending the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton,
15 California, and the Combat Service Support School at Camp Lejeune,
16 North Carolina; and

17 WHEREAS, Assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 4th
18 Reconnaissance Battalion, in San Antonio in December 2003, he was
19 activated in January 2005 and completed predeployment training at
20 Twentynine Palms, California; and

21 WHEREAS, Lance Graham's warm smile and gentle nature endeared
22 him to his family and a host of friends, and his thoughtfulness and
23 concern for others touched many hearts; following his deployment,
24 he became a pen pal of a third grade class, and rather than writing

1 to the group as a whole, he wrote letters back to individual
2 students; and

3 WHEREAS, Standing six feet, five inches, Corporal Graham was
4 also known for his tremendous strength, an asset that stood him in
5 good stead during his volunteer work with the Selma and Bracken fire
6 departments; endowed as well with a joyful, adventurous spirit, he
7 was always ready to try something new, from painting water towers to
8 working on a fishing boat off the coast of Alaska; and

9 WHEREAS, Following a service attended by hundreds at
10 Northeast Bible Church, Corporal Graham was laid to rest in Fort Sam
11 Houston National Cemetery; his military awards include the Global
12 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism
13 Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization
14 Device, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Purple Heart;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the hazardous nature of his
17 assignment, Corporal Graham performed his mission with dedication
18 and professionalism; his unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and
19 this country reflected the highest ideals of the U.S. Marine Corps,
20 and his fellow citizens owe him a debt of gratitude that the passage
21 of time can never diminish; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
23 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Lance
24 Corporal Lance Tanner Graham and extend deepest sympathy to the
25 members of his family: to his mother and father, Sherry and Joseph
26 Graham; to his brothers, Ryan and Kyle Graham; and to the other
27 relatives and many friends of this beloved young man; and, be it

1 further

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