SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 359 In Memory of Tony Leigh Hernandez

WHEREAS, The family and friends of United States Marine Lance Corporal Tony Leigh Hernandez suffered an immeasurable loss with the death of this valiant soldier on January 25, 2005, at the age of 22; and

WHEREAS, Deployed in Iraq since July of 2004, where he served as a helicopter crew chief, Lance Corporal Hernandez died in the crash of his aircraft near Ar Rutbah, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, This brave young Texan was born on November 25, 1982, and was a 2001 graduate of Smithson Valley High School, where he was active in the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps; fulfilling a dream of serving his country, he joined the United States Marine Corps in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Our state and nation are fortunate to have men and women whose love for their country inspires them to take up military service, yet the tragic death of this exemplary young man is a sobering reminder of the cost of war; Lance Corporal Hernandez embodied the highest ideals of the United States Armed Forces, and those who knew and loved him well will forever carry him close in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby pay special tribute to the life of Lance Corporal Tony Leigh Hernandez and extend profound sympathy to the members of his family: his wife, Jacquie Hernandez; his mother, Janette Trout; his father and stepmother,

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LeRoy and Evelyn Hernandez; his sister, Tracy Mendez, and her husband, Lucky; his brothers, Christopher Hernandez, and his wife, Amy, and Charlie Hernandez and Staci Stephenson; his grandparents, Darold and Alvena Wingert; his step-grandparents, Jackie and Wilburn Simon; his stepsister, Melissa Everett, and her husband, Jimmy; his stepbrothers, Robert and Austin Mittelstadt; his mother-in-law, Cindy King; and to the other family members and many friends of this beloved young man; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lance Corporal Tony Leigh Hernandez. Wentworth

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 10, 2005, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate