

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 392

In Memory
of
Mark Anthony Zapata

WHEREAS, Words cannot express the heartache felt at the loss of Mark Anthony Zapata of Edinburg, who died in Iraq on August 15, 2004, at the age of 27; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Zapata was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, and was deployed to Iraq in January, 2004; he sustained mortal injuries when his M-1 tank received hostile fire in the city of Najaf; for his service from July 29 to August 15, Mark Zapata was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, This courageous soldier grew up on various army bases and graduated from Edinburg North High School in 1995; deeply committed to helping others, he served as a volunteer firefighter and paramedic in Edinburg before joining the military; in addition, he worked as a volunteer with children at Saint Joseph's Catholic School and at his own alma mater, Stephen F. Austin Elementary School; at both schools, his ready smile and caring nature made him an especially welcome visitor; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Zapata made friends with the Iraqi children as well, in spite of not knowing their language; touched by their kindness, he returned from his leave laden with candy and other treats he had bought for them; he planned to join the military police and attend college after his tour in Iraq was over; and

WHEREAS, While home for a few weeks during the summer, Mark Zapata took time to help the Linn-San Manuel Fire Department with a fund-raiser by serving as deejay at the event; he enjoyed many different types of music and played several instruments, including the trumpet and keyboard; and

WHEREAS, On the day when family and friends gathered to lay Mark Anthony Zapata to rest, his favorite fire truck, Pumper 923, led the funeral procession to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, accompanied by more than 100 firefighters from across the Valley; afterward, Specialist Zapata was given a traditional firefighter's burial; and

WHEREAS, The thoughts and prayers of many go out to the family of this beloved young man; he is deeply missed, and those who knew and cherished him will forever carry his memory close in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Mark Anthony Zapata: his parents, Ninfa and Daniel Zapata; his brother, Michael; his sister, Christy; and his other beloved relatives; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mark Zapata.

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 15, 2005, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate