

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 872

In Memory
of
Phillip William Ellis

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Grand Prairie in mourning the loss of Phillip William Ellis, who died March 19, 2005, at the age of 24; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Ellis was born on March 28, 1980, with Down's syndrome and, despite battling cancer and other ailments, he lived a full life, surviving 18 years longer than expected; he earned gold, silver, and bronze medals as a Special Olympian and completed high school and two semesters of college; and

WHEREAS, He was a faithful member of the Messiah Lutheran Church, where he enjoyed seeing his friends and singing with his unmistakable voice; and

WHEREAS, An honorary Marine, Phillip treasured a flag that had flown in Iraq and was signed by a group of Marines; lauding his courage, they awarded him some of their overseas medals as well as the flag; and

WHEREAS, In the final months of his life, he fulfilled a lifelong dream of being a firefighter; the Cedar Hill Fire Department invited him to become an unofficial Firefighter at the fire station; despite his physical limitations, he insisted on working and took a turn with the hose and cleaned the fire trucks, earning a blackened helmet; and

WHEREAS, Phillip succeeded in leading a joyful and inspirational life and was cherished by all who had a chance to know him; and

WHEREAS, He was a devoted son and brother, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Phillip William Ellis: his mother, Karen; his father, Jim; and his younger brother, Andrew; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for 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 Phillip William Ellis.

Harris

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 12, 2005, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate