

By: Christian

H.C.R. No. 117

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, On February 17, 2005, Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose
2 Alonso Compean, while on a routine patrol for the United States
3 Border Patrol, noticed a van near the United States-Mexico border
4 and signaled for the driver to stop for an identification check; the
5 driver, Mexican drug-runner Osvaldo Aldrete-Davila, failed to
6 comply with the request, and the ensuing altercation resulted in
7 the nonfatal shooting of Mr. Aldrete-Davila; and

8 WHEREAS, Although Agents Ramos and Compean, who both have
9 clean disciplinary records in relation to the use of firearms
10 during their service to the border patrol, have maintained their
11 innocence of the charges in the shooting, they were nonetheless
12 convicted of crimes against Mr. Aldrete-Davila and sentenced to 11
13 years and one day and 12 years in prison, respectively; the
14 convictions, however, were based in part on testimony offered by
15 Mr. Aldrete-Davila in exchange for immunity from prosecution for
16 transporting drugs in the van; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Border Patrol has the crucial task
18 of securing the almost 2,000-mile United States-Mexico border
19 against terrorists, drug smugglers, human traffickers, and other
20 criminal elements who have undertaken organized illegal activity in
21 the United States, thereby endangering the large, growing, and
22 economically vital communities along the border; and

23 WHEREAS, This increasingly perilous situation has put
24 excessive pressure on the brave but outnumbered Americans who risk

1 their lives daily to secure our border; in turn, this pressure
2 should be given proportionate consideration in the punishment meted
3 out to Agents Ramos and Compean for the events of February 17, 2005;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature understands the
6 constitutional and moral responsibility government leaders have to
7 protect the citizens of this country and to support and defend those
8 who risk their lives carrying out that mission, and concomitantly
9 holds in high esteem the efforts of the prosecutors and the decision
10 made by the jury in relation to the actions of Agents Ramos and
11 Compean; the legislature also respects the deference shown for the
12 laws of this country by Agents Ramos and Compean when they freely
13 turned themselves in to United States marshals to begin their
14 prison sentences; and

15 WHEREAS, The president of the United States, under Article
16 II, Section 2, of the United States Constitution, has the power to
17 grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States,
18 except in cases of impeachment, and President George W. Bush, as of
19 the end of 2006, had pardoned 113 people since taking office; and

20 WHEREAS, Given their outstanding service as border patrol
21 agents, their willingness to risk their safety to protect our
22 border from a dangerous drug smuggler, their standing as
23 responsible husbands and fathers, and their respectful deference to
24 the decisions of the court, Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso
25 Compean deserve to be granted a presidential pardon so as to reclaim
26 their lives as productive citizens and responsible husbands and
27 fathers; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
2 hereby respectfully request that the president of the United States
3 pardon United States Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose
4 Alonso Compean; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
6 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States and
7 the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Pardon
8 Attorney.