

By: Smithee

H.R. No. 735

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The friends and family of Texas Army National Guard
2 Sergeant First Class Tommy I. Folks, Jr., suffered an immeasurable
3 loss with the death of this valiant soldier on October 18, 2005, at
4 the age of 31; and

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant Folks was killed while bravely serving his
6 country during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq, as a member of
7 Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry; and

8 WHEREAS, A longtime resident of Amarillo, Sergeant Folks
9 graduated from Amarillo High School, where he was a member of the
10 National Honor Society, manager of the basketball team, and a
11 two-year letterman in soccer; he went on to attend the University of
12 North Texas before joining the U.S. Army in 1994; and

13 WHEREAS, During his military career, he served in Germany
14 with the 7th Army Training Command, where his ability and
15 determination earned him the title of Soldier of the Year 1998; he
16 later served in Afghanistan before transferring to the Texas
17 National Guard; and

18 WHEREAS, This beloved son and brother remained devoted to
19 serving his country despite the dangerous nature of his mission;
20 his heroic efforts earned him a posthumous promotion to the
21 position of sergeant first class as well as a number of accolades,
22 including the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with
23 four Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal with one Oak Leaf
24 Cluster, and National Defense Service Medal; and

1 WHEREAS, Before his final deployment, Sergeant Folks had
2 enrolled at West Texas A&M in Canyon; a member of the school's
3 President's Honor Roll, he was studying to become a teacher and
4 coach; and

5 WHEREAS, Exemplifying the highest ideals of the U.S. armed
6 forces, Tommy Folks inspired others with his fortitude, tenacity,
7 and courage; although his passing leaves a void in the lives of
8 those who were fortunate to know him, they will forever carry
9 memories of this heroic Texan close in their hearts; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Tommy I. Folks and
13 extend sincere sympathy to all those who mourn the passing of this
14 courageous Texan; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sergeant
18 First Class Tommy I. Folks, Jr.