

By: Callegari

H.R. No. 2052

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Katy lost five beloved young men who died
2 in service to their country: U.S. Army Master Sergeant James Curtis
3 Coons, U.S. Army Captain James Alexander Funkhouser, Jr., U.S.
4 Marine Corporal Benjamin Salgado Rosales, U.S. Army First
5 Lieutenant Jonathan D. Rozier, and U.S. Marine Sergeant James
6 Rodney Tijerina; and

7 WHEREAS, Master Sergeant James Coons, assigned to the 385th
8 Signal Company, 54th Signal Battalion, in Kuwait City, Kuwait, had
9 returned stateside when he died on July 4, 2003, at the age of 35; a
10 16-year veteran, he completed two tours in Okinawa, Japan, before
11 serving as a director of information management during the wars in
12 Afghanistan and Iraq; and

13 WHEREAS, Captain Alex Funkhouser, Jr., sustained mortal
14 injuries on May 29, 2006, at the age of 35, when an improvised
15 explosive device detonated near his vehicle during reconnaissance
16 patrol operations in Baghdad; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th
17 Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division based at Fort
18 Hood, he served as a headquarters company commander and as part of a
19 team that trained Iraqi soldiers; and

20 WHEREAS, Corporal Benjamin Rosales was assigned to the 2nd
21 Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II
22 Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina;
23 he was killed on October 4, 2006, at the age of 20, while conducting
24 combat operations in Al Anbar Province; and

1 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Jonathan Rozier was assigned to B
2 Company, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st
3 Armored Division, based at Fort Riley, Kansas; he was killed on July
4 19, 2003, at the age of 25, when his unit was fired upon while
5 providing security at a municipal building in Baghdad; and

6 WHEREAS, Sergeant James Tijerina was killed on February 7,
7 2007, at the age of 26, when his helicopter was shot down by hostile
8 fire in Al Anbar Province; assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter
9 Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I
10 Marine Expeditionary Force, at Camp Pendleton, California, he
11 served as a crew chief on a CH-46E Sea Knight medical evacuation
12 helicopter and was on his second tour of duty; and

13 WHEREAS, Our state and nation are fortunate to have men and
14 women whose love for their country inspires them to military
15 service, yet the tragic deaths of these exemplary soldiers are a
16 sobering reminder of the cost of war; James Coons, Alex Funkhouser,
17 Benjamin Rosales, Jonathan Rozier, and James Tijerina all embodied
18 the highest ideals of the armed services, and their bravery and
19 sacrifice will never be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the lives of U.S. Army Master
22 Sergeant James Curtis Coons, U.S. Army Captain James Alexander
23 Funkhouser, Jr., U.S. Marine Corporal Benjamin Salgado Rosales,
24 U.S. Army First Lieutenant Jonathan D. Rozier, and U.S. Marine
25 Sergeant James Rodney Tijerina and extend sincere sympathy to all
26 their loved ones; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

1 prepared for their families and that when the Texas House of
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of U.S. Army
3 Master Sergeant James Curtis Coons, U.S. Army Captain James
4 Alexander Funkhouser, Jr., U.S. Marine Corporal Benjamin Salgado
5 Rosales, U.S. Army First Lieutenant Jonathan D. Rozier, and U.S.
6 Marine Sergeant James Rodney Tijerina.