

By: Escobar

H.R. No. 2566

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a valiant and promising young Texan was
2 taken when U.S. Navy Petty Officer Third Class Ronchester Mananga
3 Santiago was killed in the terrorist attack on the USS *Cole* on
4 October 12, 2000, but the memory of this brave sailor who made the
5 ultimate sacrifice for his country lives on among the residents of
6 his home state; and

7 WHEREAS, Born on February 10, 1978, Chester Santiago grew up
8 in Kingsville; he took part in the ROTC program at H. M. King High
9 School and graduated in 1996; soon after earning his diploma, Mr.
10 Santiago chose to serve his country as a member of the U.S. Navy,
11 and for the next four years, he distinguished himself as a seaman of
12 great diligence and ability; and

13 WHEREAS, Petty Officer Santiago was stationed for three years
14 at the Charlestown Navy Yard as a crew member on the historic USS
15 *Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship in the world; his
16 devoted service as a cook and his upbeat personality won him many
17 friends among his fellow sailors on "Old Ironsides," and one of the
18 ship's galleys was named in his honor following his death; and

19 WHEREAS, After joining the crew of the *Cole*, Petty Officer
20 Santiago ably supported that ship's vital assignments around the
21 globe; though he relished the adventure of his navy duty,
22 Ronchester Santiago was looking forward to the next chapter in his
23 life and had plans to study electrical engineering at The
24 University of Texas; and

1 WHEREAS, A deadly act of terrorism brought an end to those
2 plans, but it cannot diminish the courage and commitment of Petty
3 Officer Santiago, who at the young age of 22 had already proved
4 himself an individual of great gallantry and responsibility and to
5 whom Americans owe an eternal debt of remembrance; now, therefore,
6 be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of a valorous son of
9 South Texas, U.S. Navy Petty Officer Third Class Ronchester Mananga
10 Santiago; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Petty
14 Officer Santiago.