

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 309

In Memory
of
Jose Alfredo Velez
Andrew Velez

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the residents of Lubbock and citizens across the state in mourning the tragic loss of Corporal Jose Alfredo "Freddy" Velez and of Specialist Andrew Velez; and

WHEREAS, Freddy Velez died November 13, 2004, at the age of 23, while serving his country in Iraq, and Andrew died July 25, 2006, at the age of 22, while serving his country in Afghanistan; they both were true American heroes whose wartime deaths have left a tremendous void in the lives of all who knew and loved them; and

WHEREAS, Close brothers who grew up in the Lubbock community, Freddy was born October 21, 1981, and Andrew was born October 26, 1983; they were both talented athletes and played football together at Estacado High School; the brothers also competed in track, wrestling, and basketball; Freddy was in the high school's medical magnet program, and Andrew's interests were in criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, Freddy joined the United States Army in August of 2000 and was assigned to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division; Andrew followed his brother into the military and was assigned to the Corps Support Battalion, Theater Support Command, Fort Irwin, California; and

WHEREAS, Freddy and Andrew were dedicated to their military responsibilities and were highly patriotic soldiers who demonstrated unwavering resolve; following the death of his brother Freddy, who had been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and posthumously the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, Andrew was determined to continue the fight against terrorism and to return to combat; they were the first brothers to die while serving in our nation's military in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Raised in a loving and close-knit family by their father, Roy Velez, and his wife, Carmen, Freddy and Andrew grew up sharing their enthusiasm for life with each other and with their family and friends; they then became honorable and courageous soldiers who will long be remembered for their tenacity and loyalty to their country; and

WHEREAS, Although Freddy and Andrew are deeply missed, the bond between them and their strong spirits will continue to abide for years to come in the hearts of all who loved them and all who were privileged to share in their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family members of Jose Alfredo Velez and Andrew Velez; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for their family members as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Corporal Jose Alfredo Velez and Specialist Andrew Velez.

		Duncan
Averitt	Hegar	Shapiro
Brimer	Hinojosa	Shapleigh
Carona	Jackson	Uresti
Deuell	Janek	Van de Putte
Ellis	Lucio	Watson
Eltife	Nelson	Wentworth
Estes	Nichols	West
Fraser	Ogden	Whitmire
Gallegos	Patrick	Williams
Harris	Seliger	Zaffirini

Dewhurst, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 21, 2007, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate