

By: Castro

H.R. No. 2064

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The friends and family of U.S. Army Specialist  
2 Marquis J. McCants of San Antonio suffered an immeasurable loss  
3 with the death of this valiant paratrooper in Iraq on May 18, 2007,  
4 at the age of 23; and

5           WHEREAS, Assigned as a combat medic to the 1st Battalion,  
6 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd  
7 Airborne Division, based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Specialist  
8 McCants was killed when his unit was attacked with an improvised  
9 explosive device in Baghdad; and

10           WHEREAS, "Marq" McCants was born in Abilene on August 4,  
11 1983, to Savage and Belinda McCants; he graduated from O'Connor  
12 High School, where he made many friends, and worked in retail before  
13 joining the Army in 2005; a talented songwriter, he hoped to earn a  
14 degree in music and eventually start a hip-hop production company,  
15 but he always put his family first and was deeply devoted to his  
16 wife and three children; and

17           WHEREAS, After basic combat training in Fort Leonard Wood,  
18 Missouri, Specialist McCants went on to complete combat medic  
19 advanced individual training at Fort Sam Houston; he reported to  
20 the 82nd Airborne Division in May 2006 and was assigned to 1st  
21 Battalion, 325th Airborne as a trauma specialist; a dedicated and  
22 respected professional, he provided lifesaving care to fellow  
23 soldiers and to Iraqi citizens; he continued to study his medical  
24 books late into the night and was eager to expand his knowledge; and

1           WHEREAS, His commanding officers held Specialist McCants in  
2 the highest regard, and he received numerous military honors,  
3 including a Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Badge,  
4 the Combat Medical Badge, and the Parachutist Badge; generous and  
5 kind, he was always ready to help his fellow soldiers, who called  
6 him "Doc," and he raised the spirits of others with his ready grin  
7 and lively sense of humor; he loved to talk about music, but his  
8 favorite topic of conversation was his beloved family; and

9           WHEREAS, Admired by all who were privileged to know him,  
10 Marquis McCants was a courageous American and an exemplary husband  
11 and father, and the State of Texas and the nation mourn the loss of a  
12 hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in behalf of his country; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Army Specialist  
16 Marquis McCants and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his  
17 family: to his wife, Andrea McCants; to his children, Azaria and  
18 Micah McCants and Deja Martinez; to his parents, Savage and Belinda  
19 McCants; to his brothers, Savage McCants III and Isaiah McCants; to  
20 his sisters, Patrice Williams, Lisa Basch, and Brandi McCants; to  
21 his mother-in-law, Patricia Patten, and her husband, Derrick; and  
22 to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

23           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Marquis  
26 McCants.