

By: Corte

H.R. No. 2299

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of U.S. Army Corporal Mathew  
2 LaForest of Austin suffered an immeasurable loss with the death of  
3 this courageous young man on May 25, 2007, at the age of 21; and

4 WHEREAS, Corporal LaForest was killed in combat in Taji,  
5 Iraq, while bravely serving his nation as a member of the 4th  
6 Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team,  
7 2nd Infantry Division, based at Fort Lewis, Washington; and

8 WHEREAS, Born on February 7, 1986, at Clark Air Force Base in  
9 the Philippines, Mathew LaForest was the son of Mark LaForest and  
10 Deborah Turner; a 2004 graduate of Bowie High School in Austin, he  
11 was a member of the Bowie Band and the Junior Reserve Officers'  
12 Training Corps, and he played soccer with the Austin United Soccer  
13 Club; his military service began shortly after he finished high  
14 school when he enlisted in the U.S. Army; and

15 WHEREAS, Corporal LaForest was known for his quiet, easygoing  
16 personality and his willingness to help anyone who needed a hand; he  
17 enjoyed racing his car and spending time with friends, and his quick  
18 and endearing smile was treasured by all who knew him; and

19 WHEREAS, Through his unwavering dedication to duty, honor,  
20 and this country, Corporal LaForest embodied the highest ideals of  
21 the United States armed services, and his fellow citizens owe him a  
22 debt of remembrance that the passage of time can never diminish;  
23 now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Army Corporal  
2 Mathew LaForest and extend deepest condolences to the members of  
3 his family: to his father, Mark LaForest, and his wife, Suzette; to  
4 his mother, Deborah Baughn, and her husband, Dana; to his sister,  
5 Jessica LaForest; to his brothers, Devon Mitchell and Brandon  
6 Baughn; to his grandparents, Judy LaForest and Donald and Sandra  
7 Turner; to his uncles, Bill and Mike LaForest; to his aunts, Lonnee  
8 Rorison and her husband, Steve, and Tammy Lacy and her husband,  
9 Mike; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it  
10 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 U.S. Army  
14 Corporal Mathew LaForest.