

By: Aliseda

H.C.R. No. 67

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the heartache felt
2 at the loss of U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class Colton Wesley
3 Rusk of Orange Grove, who died in Afghanistan on December 6, 2010,
4 at the age of 20; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on September 23, 1990, in Corpus Christi to
6 Darrell and Kathy Rusk, Colton Rusk attended Orange Grove High
7 School, where he excelled in sports, lettering in both football and
8 baseball; known for his winning personality and brilliant smile, he
9 was named the senior class favorite and Mr. Orange Grove High School
10 by his fellow students; and

11 WHEREAS, In June 2008, the summer before his senior year,
12 this patriotic young Texan took the first step toward fulfilling
13 his dream of becoming a marine by enlisting in the corps's delayed
14 entry program; a year later he received his diploma and embarked for
15 basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego; and

16 WHEREAS, Private Rusk was deployed to Afghanistan on his 20th
17 birthday, September 23, 2010; he bravely served his country as a
18 member of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine
19 Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, at Camp Pendleton,
20 California, and he was recognized with the Purple Heart, the Combat
21 Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War
22 on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal; and

23 WHEREAS, A machine gunner with Weapons Company, Private Rusk
24 was selected to train as a dog handler with the Improvised Explosive

1 Device Detection team; he shared a special bond with Eli, the black
2 Labrador retriever that accompanied him to Afghanistan, and they
3 worked as a team to save the lives of American troops by detecting
4 hidden bombs and weapons; when Private Rusk was mortally wounded,
5 Eli steadfastly remained by his side; Eli has since been retired
6 from service and adopted by the Rusk family; and

7 WHEREAS, The marine corps values of honor, courage, and
8 commitment have had no finer champion than Private First Class
9 Colton Rusk, and all who knew this brave Texan will forever remember
10 him with admiration and gratitude; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
12 hereby pay tribute to the memory of U.S. Marine Corps Private First
13 Class Colton Wesley Rusk and extend deepest sympathy to the members
14 of his family: to his parents, Darrell and Kathy Rusk; to his
15 brothers, Cody and Brady Rusk; to his grandparents, Wayne and Katy
16 O'Neal and Jan Rusk; to his great-grandmother, Vivian Alphin; to
17 his aunts, Stacy Hoot, Crystal Blakeney, and Yvonne Rusk; to his
18 uncles, Wayne O'Neal, Jr., and Brian Rusk; and to his other
19 relatives and friends; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
23 Colton Rusk.