

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the heartache felt
2 at the loss of U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Colton Wesley Rusk
3 of Orange Grove, who died in Afghanistan on December 6, 2010, at the
4 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, prom king, and Mr. Orange Grove
10 High School by his fellow students; an avid outdoorsman, he loved
11 hunting and fishing, and he enjoyed team roping on his horse, Pam,
12 with his best friend, Justin Rokohl, his brother Cody, and his
13 father, Darrell; and

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

20 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Rusk was deployed to Afghanistan on
21 his 20th birthday, September 23, 2010; he served his country
22 courageously as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment,
23 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, at Camp
24 Pendleton, California, and he was recognized with the Purple Heart,

1 the Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the
2 Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Afghanistan Campaign
3 Medal; and

4 WHEREAS, A machine gunner with Weapons Company, Lance
5 Corporal Rusk was selected to train as a dog handler with the
6 Improvised Explosive Device Detection team; he shared a special
7 bond with Eli, the black Labrador retriever that accompanied him to
8 Afghanistan, and they worked as a team to save the lives of American
9 troops by detecting hidden bombs and weapons; when Lance Corporal
10 Rusk was mortally wounded, Eli steadfastly remained by his side;
11 Eli has since been retired from service and adopted by the Rusk
12 family; and

13 WHEREAS, The Marine Corps values of honor, courage, and
14 commitment have had no finer champion than Lance Corporal Colton
15 Rusk, and all who knew this brave young Texan will forever remember
16 him with admiration and gratitude; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal
19 Colton Wesley Rusk and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his
20 family: to his parents, Darrell and Kathy Rusk; to his brothers,
21 Cody and Brady Rusk; to his grandparents, Wayne and Katy O'Neal and
22 Jan Rusk; to his great-grandmother, Vivian Alphin; to his aunts,
23 Stacy Hoot, Crystal Blakeney, and Yvonne Rusk; to his uncles, Wayne
24 O'Neal, Jr., and Brian Rusk; and to his other relatives and friends;
25 and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

H.C.R. No. 79

1 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
2 Lance Corporal Colton Rusk.

Aliseda
Sheets

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 79 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 29, 2011.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 79 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the Senate on March 30, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor