

By: Aliseda

H.C.R. No. 79

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.