

By: Aliseda

H.C.R. No. 103

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the sorrow felt at
2 the loss of U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Jose Luis Saenz III of
3 Pleasanton, who died in Afghanistan on August 9, 2010, at the age of
4 30; and

5 WHEREAS, Assigned to 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st
6 Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp
7 Pendleton, California, Sergeant Saenz was killed in Helmand
8 Province by an explosive device while on patrol; and

9 WHEREAS, Born in San Antonio in 1980 to Leonor Mata Saenz and
10 Jose Luis Saenz, Jr., Joey Saenz grew up in Pleasanton, where he was
11 a member of the varsity football team and the band at Pleasanton
12 High School; after graduating in 1999, he worked as a mechanic at
13 Walmart, where he met his future wife, Christy; he was a member of
14 St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Jourdanton; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Saenz joined the Marine Corps in 2003 and
16 received his basic training in San Diego; after completing
17 automotive mechanics training at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, he
18 was stationed with the 9th Engineer Support Battalion in Okinawa,
19 Japan; in 2007, he was reassigned to the 1st Battalion, 11th Marine
20 Regiment, and he served two tours of duty in Iraq; at the time of his
21 death, he was serving in Afghanistan on his third tour of duty and
22 had been conducting daily operations as a squad leader; and

23 WHEREAS, In recognition of his sacrifice, Sergeant Saenz was
24 posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps

1 Commendation Medal with the Combat Distinguishing Device; he had
2 also earned the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two
3 gold stars, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Marine Corps Good Conduct
4 Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign
5 Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global
6 War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment
7 Ribbon; moreover, the members of his regiment in Afghanistan named
8 their artillery position Firebase Saenz in his honor; and

9 WHEREAS, Our state and nation are fortunate to have men and
10 women whose love of country inspires them to serve, yet the tragic
11 death of this brave man is a sobering reminder of the cost of war;
12 Sergeant Jose Saenz embodied the highest ideals of the U.S. armed
13 forces, and those who knew him and loved him will forever carry him
14 close in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Jose
17 Luis Saenz III and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
18 family: to his wife, Christy Heritage-Saenz; to his son, Jose Luis
19 Saenz IV; to his parents, Leonor Mata Saenz and Jose Luis Saenz,
20 Jr.; to his sisters, Bettina Saenz-Salas and her husband, Alex,
21 Melissa Saenz and Shad Crow, and Patricia Saenz and Luis Ramos III;
22 to his grandparents, Jose Luis Saenz, Sr., Evangelina Saenz, and
23 Celia P. Mata; to his nieces and nephews, Brianna Salas, Ignacio
24 Salas, Luis Ramos IV, and Leigh Ramos; to his in-laws, Paula
25 Heritage, Elogio Heritage, Lisa McLin and her husband, Matthew,
26 Sandra Callejas and her husband, Jeffrey, and Elogio Heritage, Jr.,
27 and his wife, Ruby; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
5 Jose Luis Saenz III.