

By: Aliseda

H.C.R. No. 128

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 2005, he was assigned to Marine Corps Combat Service
20 Support Schools at Camp Johnson, North Carolina, where he worked as
21 a motor transport mechanic and performed HAZMAT duties and funeral
22 details; he was assigned the 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment in
23 2007; and

24 WHEREAS, The following year, he deployed with India Battery

1 and participated in various exercises in the Persian Gulf with the
2 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard USS *Peleliu*; he deployed to
3 Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in May 2010,
4 and at the time of his death he was conducting daily operations as a
5 squad leader; and

6 WHEREAS, In recognition of his sacrifice, Sergeant Saenz was
7 posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps
8 Commendation Medal with the Combat Distinguishing Device; he had
9 also earned the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two
10 gold stars, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Marine Corps Good Conduct
11 Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign
12 Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global
13 War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment
14 Ribbon; moreover, the members of his regiment in Afghanistan named
15 their artillery position Firebase Saenz in his honor; and

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

22 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
23 hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Jose
24 Luis Saenz III and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
25 family: to his wife, Christy Heritage-Saenz; to his son, Jose Luis
26 Saenz IV; to his parents, Leonor Mata Saenz and Jose Luis Saenz,
27 Jr.; to his sisters, Bettina Saenz-Salas and her husband, Alex,

1 Melissa Saenz and Shad Crow, and Patricia Saenz and Luis Ramos III;
2 to his grandparents, Jose Luis Saenz, Sr., Evangelina Saenz, and
3 Celia P. Mata; to his nieces and nephews, Brianna Salas, Ignacio
4 Salas, Luis Ramos IV, and Leigh Ramos; to his in-laws, Paula
5 Heritage, Elogio Heritage, Lisa McLin and her husband, Matthew,
6 Sandra Callejas and her husband, Jeffrey, and Elogio Heritage, Jr.,
7 and his wife, Ruby; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be
8 it further

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