

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1261

**WHEREAS**, City officials and community leaders are working together in Smithville to build a new soldiers' memorial park, and this noteworthy effort indeed merits special recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2010, Mayor Mark Bunte discussed ways to honor fallen heroes with Patti Patton Bader, founder of Soldiers' Angels, a volunteer-led nonprofit organization that assists members of the United States armed forces; Mayor Bunte and Soldiers' Angels representatives spoke with local families who had lost their loved ones in recent armed conflicts, and they developed a vision for a unique memorial park that would combine remembrance with a celebration of youthful energy; and

**WHEREAS**, The proposed memorial park will feature a children's water recreation area and a monument designed by award-winning Smithville sculptor Bill McGlaun; a statue of an angel opening its wings will hold the dog tags of five soldiers from Bastrop County who sacrificed their lives for their country in Iraq or Afghanistan: Sergeant Mario Rodriguez, Jr., Lance Corporal Cody R. Stanley, Specialist Joshua Ray Farris, Captain Joshua Meadows, and Private First Class Tina Marie Priest; in addition, the park will pay tribute to all Bastrop County area soldiers from the days of the Texas Revolution; and

**WHEREAS**, The Texas Soldiers Memorial project demonstrates the Smithville community's profound respect and gratitude for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation, and it expresses continuing support for the men and women who have sworn to defend our freedom as members of the U.S. military; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby commend the citizens of Smithville on their Texas Soldiers Memorial proposal and extend to all those associated with the project sincere best wishes for the future.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 30, 2011.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate