

By: Menendez

H.C.R. No. 130

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot express the heartache felt at the loss
2 of U.S. Navy Seaman Benjamin D. Rast, who died while bravely serving
3 his country in Afghanistan on April 6, 2011, at the age of 23; and

4 WHEREAS, Seaman Rast fulfilled a longtime dream when he
5 joined the navy in 2009; trained as a medic, he was stationed at the
6 Naval Medical Center, Expeditionary Medical Force Detachment, in
7 San Diego; in 2011, he volunteered for duty in Afghanistan, where he
8 was assigned as a hospitalman with a Houston-based reserve unit
9 known as "the Lone Star Battalion"--the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine
10 Regiment; he was conducting a dismounted patrol in Helmand Province
11 when he was killed; and

12 WHEREAS, The awards conferred on this courageous young man
13 included the National Defense Service Medal, Pistol Marksmanship
14 Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; and

15 WHEREAS, Exemplifying the highest ideals of the U.S. armed
16 forces, Seaman Rast inspired others through his fortitude,
17 tenacity, and dedication to his comrades-in-arms, and he has earned
18 the lasting gratitude of every American for his valiant service in
19 this nation's behalf; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
21 hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Navy Seaman Benjamin D. Rast
22 and extend deepest sympathy to all those who mourn his passing; and,
23 be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
2 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
3 U.S. Navy Seaman Benjamin D. Rast.