

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 640

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas and the entire nation are  
2 mourning the tragic loss of Christopher Scott Kyle of Midlothian,  
3 an American hero who died on February 2, 2013, at the age of 38; and

4 WHEREAS, Chris Kyle was born in Odessa on April 8, 1974, to  
5 Wayne and Deby Kyle; growing up on his parents' ranch, he enjoyed an  
6 active life; he learned marksmanship at an early age, hunting deer  
7 and pheasant, and when he was older, he challenged himself further  
8 as a professional bronco and bull rider; and

9 WHEREAS, After studying ranch and range management for two  
10 years at Tarleton State University and then working as a ranch hand,  
11 Mr. Kyle answered his nation's call to duty and joined the U.S. Navy  
12 in 1999; his skill and determination quickly led to his transfer to  
13 the SEALs, the navy's elite special operations force, where he  
14 prevailed throughout the team's strenuous selection process and was  
15 chosen to receive sniper training; and

16 WHEREAS, Throughout four combat tours, Mr. Kyle served with  
17 SEAL Team 3 in the thick of battle in such places as Ramadi,  
18 Fallujah, and Baghdad, and his exceptional ability as a marksman  
19 enabled him to save countless American lives and earned him  
20 legendary status as the most successful sniper in U.S. history; his  
21 outstanding record was recognized with two Silver Stars and five  
22 Bronze Stars with Valor, among many other decorations; following  
23 his combat deployments, he served as a chief instructor for  
24 training other navy snipers, and he wrote the first Navy SEAL sniper

1 manual; and

2 WHEREAS, Chris Kyle retired from the navy in 2009 as a chief  
3 petty officer and returned to his family in Texas; his combat  
4 memoir, *American Sniper*, became a worldwide bestseller, with  
5 proceeds from the book going to the families of two fellow SEALs who  
6 were killed in battle; in addition, he cofounded Craft  
7 International, which trains military, police, and civilian  
8 security forces, and he also appeared on the NBC show *Stars Earn  
9 Stripes*; and

10 WHEREAS, More importantly, Mr. Kyle devoted himself to caring  
11 for his fellow veterans, and he helped found the FITCO Cares  
12 Foundation, which provides at-home fitness equipment to veterans  
13 recovering from the emotional and physical wounds of war; his  
14 commitment to the support of servicemen and servicewomen and their  
15 families was heartfelt, deep, and enduring; and

16 WHEREAS, Chris Kyle was an outstanding soldier, a humble  
17 patriot, a man of strong faith, and a loving husband, father, son,  
18 and brother; his generosity, good humor, and compassion encompassed  
19 not just those closest to him, but all those men and women who  
20 accept, as he did, both the sacrifice and the privilege of serving  
21 their nation; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Christopher Scott  
24 Kyle and extend heartfelt condolences to the members of his family:  
25 to his wife, Taya, and their two children; to his parents, Wayne and  
26 Deby Kyle; to his brother, Jeff Kyle, his wife, Amy, and their two  
27 daughters; to his grandmothers, Joyce Kyle and Louise Mercer; to

1 his parents-in-law, Kent and Kim Studebaker; to his sister-in-law,  
2 Ashley Purvis-Smith, her husband, Stewart, and their four children;  
3 and to his other relatives, friends, and many admirers across the  
4 Lone Star State and beyond; and, be it further

5       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
6 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
7 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Chris Kyle.