

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, United States Army Sergeant First Class Gary Lamar
2 Collins of Chambers County was killed in action while courageously
3 serving his country in Iraq, and his heroism and sacrifice are being
4 honored at the Concert for Hope in Winnie on June 13, 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Hosted by the Different Rhythm Foundation, which
6 combats terrorism and the extinction of keystone species in Africa,
7 this event is the only full-day military tribute in the state;
8 proceeds will benefit the Crystal Beach Retreat Facility of the
9 nonprofit Lone Survivor Foundation, an organization dedicated to
10 caring for wounded servicemembers and their families and to helping
11 veterans transition back into civilian life; and

12 WHEREAS, Assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry
13 Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley,
14 Kansas, Sergeant Collins was a longtime member of the army and was
15 certified as both an airborne specialist and a ranger; after
16 serving in Bosnia, he was deployed to Iraq, where he was killed by
17 an improvised explosive device in Fallujah on November 8, 2003,
18 becoming the 13th fallen member of the U.S. armed forces from Fort
19 Riley during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

20 WHEREAS, During his decorated military career, Sergeant
21 Collins earned seven Army Achievement Medals, three Army
22 Commendation Medals, and the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge,
23 and he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple
24 Heart and promoted to sergeant first class; and

1 WHEREAS, Gary Collins was born on May 18, 1971, and graduated
2 in 1990 from Magnolia High School, where he distinguished himself
3 as captain of the football team and as a member of the baseball and
4 track and field teams and was voted class favorite for four
5 consecutive years; he married his high school sweetheart, the
6 former Kassandra Kennedy, on February 2, 1992, and the couple
7 became the loving parents of two children, Taylor and Landry; and

8 WHEREAS, Americans owe a profound debt of gratitude to those
9 who have answered this nation's call to duty, and the special
10 recognition given to Sergeant Collins by the Different Rhythm
11 Foundation will serve to further perpetuate the memory of this
12 brave soldier for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Army Sergeant
15 First Class Gary Lamar Collins and commemorate the 2015 Concert for
16 Hope.

Faircloth

H.R. No. 2994

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2994 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 30, 2015.

Chief Clerk of the House