

By: Eckhardt

S.R. No. 633

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Samuel Ray Sparrow, who died on December 14, 2023, at the age of 32; and

WHEREAS, Born on August 21, 1991, in Nederland to Lizneth Sparrow and James Ray Sparrow Jr., Sammy grew up in Groves alongside his siblings Lourdes and Daniel, in whom he could always find a ready playmate or companion; Sammy's passion for baseball was a defining influence in his childhood, and he played for Groves National Little League and made the all-star team each year he was eligible; as a teenager, he had the pleasure of visiting many different parts of the country attending collegiate baseball camps and playing baseball with his select travel team; and

WHEREAS, Sammy attended Port Neches-Groves High School, where he played on the varsity baseball team and graduated in 2009; he furthered his education at Texas A&M University--Kingsville, and after college, Sammy worked in the insurance industry and was committed to helping his clients however he could; his kindness and generous spirit were evident in all of his endeavors, and his sincere desire to help anyone in need was apparent to all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in a house divided by conflicting loyalties to various sports teams meant a steady source of banter

and good-natured rivalry, and despite being proud native Texans, Sammy and his sister Lourdes cheered for the Boston Red Sox to the amused dismay of the Yankees and Astros fans in the family; Sammy was an enthusiastic fan of the Louisiana State University Tigers and also supported the Dallas Cowboys along with his younger brother, Daniel; together they celebrated their victories, commiserated over their losses, and enjoyed taking road trips to watch the Cowboys play; and

WHEREAS, Sammy's love of sports led him to make many special memories, including traveling to Fenway Park to watch the Boston Red Sox play, which he considered a true highlight of his life; he also treasured such favorite memories as visiting New York with his mother and seeing the Baseball Hall of Fame Museum, and the trip he took with Daniel and Lourdes as adults to visit Universal Studios was one of the many precious memories they shared; and

WHEREAS, Music was always important to Sammy, and he taught himself to play the piano and guitar and was an avid reader and writer with a brilliant memory; he had a remarkable talent for deciphering games and puzzles, as illustrated by his extraordinary ability to rapidly solve a Rubik's Cube puzzle, a skill he mastered at an early age; he especially enjoyed playing games and spending time with his nephew, Xander, who will always hold dear the memories he made with his Uncle Sam; and

WHEREAS, Sammy found a sense of solace in his spiritual faith and always looked for the love and goodness in other people; he adored animals, and throughout his life, he was a

devoted friend and caretaker of dogs, cats, birds, fish, turtles, rabbits, a potbellied pig, and at one point, injured squirrels he cared for and rehabilitated; his most beloved pet and companion was undoubtedly his dog, Hook, and the close bond they shared was clear to all who witnessed it; and

WHEREAS, Left to cherish Sammy's memory are his mother, Lizabeth Sparrow, his sister Lourdes Litchfield and her husband, Michael; his brother Daniel Sparrow and his fiancée, Isabella; his nephew, Alexander "Xander" Litchfield; his loving abuelo and abuelita; and his father, James Ray Sparrow Jr.; his sister Jennifer Womack; his brother James Ray Sparrow III; and the many others who were blessed to share in his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Samuel Ray Sparrow; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sammy Sparrow.