SB 1747 - REQUEST OF SENATE GRANTED  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE APPOINTED  
On motion of Representative Geren, the house granted the request of the senate for the appointment of a Conference Committee on SB 1747.

The chair announced the appointment of the following conference committee, on the part of the house, on SB 1747: Keffer, chair; Darby, Phillips, P. King, and Guillen.

SB 1907 - REQUEST OF SENATE GRANTED  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE APPOINTED  
On motion of Representative Geren, the house granted the request of the senate for the appointment of a Conference Committee on SB 1907.

The chair announced the appointment of the following conference committee, on the part of the house, on SB 1907: Kleinschmidt, chair; Springer, Raymond, Guillen, and R. Miller.

(S. Davis in the chair)

HR 2759 - NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION  
Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 13, Section 9(f) of the House Rules, the chair announced the introduction of HR 2759, suspending the limitations on the conferees for HB 1768.

HR 2762 - NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION  
Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 13, Section 9(f) of the House Rules, the chair announced the introduction of HR 2762, suspending the limitations on the conferees for HB 1534.

HR 2795 - NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION  
Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 13, Section 9(f) of the House Rules, the chair announced the introduction of HR 2795, suspending the limitations on the conferees for SB 281.

HR 2786 - NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION  
Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 13, Section 9(f) of the House Rules, the chair announced the introduction of HR 2786, suspending the limitations on the conferees for SB 1458.

HOUSE AT EASE  
At 9:49 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease pending the arrival of guests.

FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL SERVICE  
(The House of Representatives and Senate in Joint Session)  
In accordance with the provisions of HCR 209, providing for a joint session of the senate and house of representatives for the purpose of a joint memorial session to honor Texans killed while serving in the Global War on Terrorism,
Governor Rick Perry, the Honorable David Dewhurst, president of the senate, and the honorable senators were announced at the door of the house and were admitted.

The Honorable David Dewhurst, president of the senate, called the senate to order at 10:10 a.m. and stated that a quorum of the senate was present.

The Honorable Joe Straus, speaker of the house, called the house to order at 10:10 a.m. and stated that a quorum of the house of representatives was present.

Speaker Straus stated that the two houses were in joint session pursuant to HCR 209 in honor of Texans killed while serving in the Global War on Terrorism and welcomed Governor Perry, Lieutenant Governor Dewhurst, members of the senate, and other state officials, and addressed the assemblage.

Speaker Straus recognized Representative Menéndez who addressed the families of the honored fallen soldiers.

The joint session and assemblage rose for the posting of the colors.

Robin Farland sang the national anthem.

Senator Hinojosa led the assemblage in the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and Representative R. Miller led the assemblage in the pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag.

Speaker Straus recognized Senator Lucio who offered the invocation.

Speaker Straus recognized Representative Menéndez and Senator Van de Putte to read HCR 209, convening a joint memorial session to honor Texans killed while serving in the Global War on Terrorism, commemorating Memorial Day 2013, and paying tribute to all those who have died in the service of the United States.

The service medley was played.

Governor Perry addressed the joint session and assemblage, as follows:

Thank you, Governor Dewhurst, for your words this morning, on the first day of a weekend dedicated to remembering those who gave their lives for their country. It’s a privilege to gather with all of you in this historic chamber today. While we may have disagreements about policies and bills in the last days of the 83rd Legislative Session, there is absolutely no disagreement about the importance of honoring America's fallen heroes. Today, we honor America's fallen heroes. This event is a strong reminder of the simple fact that, as free Americans, we have an obligation larger than politics to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. We have a responsibility to those who have fallen in the War on Terror and in defense of our nation in conflicts across the decades.

Over the next few days, Americans will gather in town centers at civic memorials and in parks and schools across our country. They'll gather in recognition of those who have fallen in action. From our earliest days as a colony, seeking independence, through world-changing wars in Europe and the Pacific and in smaller, but still horrific, conflicts in Southeast Asia and the
Middle East. Far too many of us will speak from a position of personal loss. On every level, war touches communities, large and small. States send large numbers of their sons and daughters to places halfway around the world. Towns carve onto monuments the names of those who never returned home, and families deal with the space left in their lives once filled by loved ones—empty chairs at holiday dinners, weddings, and graduations. For them, the effects of losing a hero are felt every day for entire lifetimes.

As we remember those who gave all in defense of their country, let's not forget those they left behind at home. They, too, have lost: sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. While the pain of such a loss does endure, so does pride and pride in what their loved ones stood for. They stood for things like dedication and freedom, liberty and love, both for their country and for those they fought alongside. That was what inspired them to risk everything in the first place as they rushed across the beaches at Normandy, skirmished in the skies over MiG Alley and moved from house to house in the streets of Fallujah.

The writer Joseph Campbell once defined a hero as "someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." It's hard to argue against that description, which certainly fits those who die fighting for the nation they loved so dearly. Though they were defined by their sacrifice, we should also remember them as individuals, often painfully young, and all with great potential for success. More than just great patriots and fighters, they were talented artists, teachers, engineers, doctors, and leaders. More than just brave, they were smart, caring, inventive, and sometimes funny. More than names, more than numbers, they were people we all knew. They were people who gave their all in dedication to the principles that continue to make this the greatest country in the world.

A sacrifice of that magnitude demands that we respect it. A sacrifice of that magnitude demands that we remember them. But what does it mean to remember them, exactly? I believe it means a lot more than cookouts, speeches, and swimming. Those things are fine. We are meant to enjoy the freedoms these brave individuals fought and died for, but it also means living our lives in a fashion that honors their sacrifice. It means serving your community, helping those in need, and making sure your voice is heard in important discussions. It means working to make our nation, and this world, a better place than we found it, and it means caring for the families of those who have recently lost a service member and doing everything we can to support our wounded warriors returning home.

Sadly, our mission in the current Global War on Terror is not over. The same principles that have made our nation great have continued to make us a target for those who hate and who use fear and death to spread their own twisted view of the world. As we've seen in faraway places like London and Afghanistan, and in places closer to home like Boston and Fort Hood, the forces of terror continue to try to intimidate and kill Americans, our allies, and anyone who loves freedom. As long as evil continues to target the innocent, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines will continue to hunt them down. Today, and throughout this weekend, let's pray for those still in harms way. Let's pray for the healing of the injured and the comfort of those left behind by a fallen hero. Let's never forget the debt we
owe all of those who served, not just on Memorial Day, but every day of the year. May God bless you and, through you, may He continue to bless the great State of Texas.

Governor Perry presented flags flown over the Capitol to family members as Representatives R. Sheffield and Farias and Senators Birdwell and Davis read the names of the following fallen soldiers:

Staff Sergeant Omar L. Aceves, Army; Staff Sergeant Estevan Altamirano, Army; Major Nathan W. Anderson, Marine Corps; Private First Class Genaro Bedoy, Army; Staff Sergeant Nicholas P. Bellard, Army; Sergeant Robert John Billings, Army; Sergeant Scott H. Burgess, Army; Sergeant John Paul Castro, Army; Sergeant Zainah C. Creamer, Army; Private First Class David A. Drake, Army; Lance Corporal Mark R. Goyet, Marine Corps; Sergeant John E. Hansen, Army; Sergeant Tanner S. Higgins, Army; Private First Class Josue Ibarra, Marine Corps; Private First Class Andrew M. Krippner, Army; Private First Class Ira B. Lanningham, Army; Staff Sergeant Roberto Loeza, Army; Staff Sergeant Chauncy R. Mays, Army; Staff Sergeant Mecolus C. McDaniel, Army; Staff Sergeant Kashif M. Memon, Army; Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Stephen M. "Matt" Mills, Navy; Sergeant Jacob Molina, Army; Chief Warrant Officer Two Jose L. Montenegro, Jr., Army; Captain Nathan J. Nylander, Air Force; Airman First Class Corey C. Owens; Master Sergeant Charles L. Price, Army; Specialist Joel A. Ramirez, Army; Chief Warrant Officer Two Thalia S. Ramirez, Army; 2nd Lieutenant Clovis T. Ray, Army; Specialist Michael C. Roberts, Army; Sergeant Rodolfo Rodriguez, Jr., Army; Specialist Philip C. S. Schiller, Army; Lance Corporal Benjamin W. Schmidt, Marine Corps; Specialist Riley S. Spalding, Army; Sergeant 1st Class Riley S. Stephens, Army; Master Sergeant Benjamin A. Stevenson, Army; Sergeant Steven L. Talamantez, Army; Staff Sergeant Houston M. Taylor, Army; Staff Sergeant Nelson Trent, Army; 1st Lieutenant Dustin D. Vincent, Army; 1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno, Army; Sergeant Lorenzo Aranda, Jr., Marine Corps; Petty Officer Second Class Clayton R. Beauchamp, Navy; 1st Sergeant Russell R. Bell, Army; Staff Sergeant Jeremie S. Border, Army; Lieutenant Colonel David E. Cabrera, Army; Sergeant James M. Darrough, Army; Sergeant James Jesse De La Cruz; Specialist Jesse W. Dietrich, Army; Lance Corporal John F. Farias, Marine Corps; Specialist Krystal M. Pitts, Army; Chief Warrant Officer Bradley J. Gaudet, Army; Specialist Alex Hernandez III, Army; Sergeant Adam Huckstep-LaPorte, Army; Specialist Payton A. Jones, Army; Specialist Kurt W. Kern, Army; Corporal Joseph D. Logan, Marine Corps; Petty Officer Brian K. Lundy, Navy; Sergeant Joshua Michael, Army; Sergeant Enrique Mondragon, Army; Corporal Juan P. Navarro, Army; Private First Class Cody R. Norris, Army; Private First Class Anthony M. Nunn, Army; Staff Sergeant Michael Paul Perez; Sergeant Joshua D. Powell, Army; Corporal Michael Arthur Preuss, Marine Corps;
Sergeant Paul A. Rivera, Army; Sergeant Glenn M. Sewell, Army; Staff Sergeant Jeremy D. Smith, Marine Corps; Specialist Omar Soltero, Army; Petty Officer Jorge Luis Velasquez, Navy; Captain Mark Tyler Voss, Air Force; Sergeant Wade D. Wilson, Marine Corps; Specialist Charles J. Wren, Army.

The joint session and assemblage observed a moment of silence.

Stephanie Urbina Jones sang "Amazing Grace."

A cannon salute was offered by the Texas Army National Guard Salute Battery.

"Taps" was played by the Kevin Lawson.

Chaplain Captain Eric Gerber offered the benediction.

Lieutenant Governor Dewhurst and Speaker Straus thanked the attendees of today's service.

SENATE ADJOURNMENT

At 11:37 a.m., Lieutenant Governor Dewhurst stated that the purpose for which the joint session was called had been completed and that the senate would, in accordance with a previous motion, stand adjourned until 2 p.m. today.

HOUSE AT EASE

At 11:38 a.m., the speaker announced that the house would stand at ease pending the departure of guests.

(Geren in the chair)

The chair called the house to order at 11:41 a.m.

RECESS

At 11:41 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand recessed until 2 p.m. today.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The house met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the speaker.

The speaker recognized Representative Guillen who introduced Juan Francisco Gonzales, deacon, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Raymondville, who offered the invocation as follows:

Heavenly Father, we pray that your grace streams forth to all here present. Everliving God, as your grace touches us, let your goodness create a loving heart that will guide us to do what is good and fitting. We also ask that you give us the wisdom to govern amid the interests and issues of the day. Everliving God, we pray this day that you give us the sense of the welfare of the people we guide and a keen thirst for justice and rightness.

Lord, today and every day we thank you for the opportunity to serve as representatives of the people and for the people. We also ask that you give us the ability to work together in harmony, even when there is honest disagreement.