

By: Patterson

H.R. No. 1055

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Bishop Elijah Evans of the Texas Army
2 National Guard died in the line of duty on April 25, 2022, at the age
3 of 22, and his untimely passing was a tragic loss to his family,
4 friends, and colleagues; and

5 WHEREAS, Born to Jwana C. Evans in Philadelphia,
6 Pennsylvania, on November 9, 1999, Bishop Evans was raised by his
7 grandmother, Jo Ann Haralson-Johnson, and he grew up with a sister,
8 Tiwana; during his early childhood, he attended school in the
9 Northside Independent School District in San Antonio, and he became
10 involved with several youth groups at Bethel African Methodist
11 Episcopal Church; he also participated in Boy Scouts, and he played
12 soccer; after moving to Arlington to live with his aunt, Felisha
13 Pullen, he transferred to the Mansfield Independent School District
14 and played football; and

15 WHEREAS, He began living with his mother and stepfather,
16 Michael Burnett, in North Pole, Alaska, in 2013, and he attended
17 Eilson High School, where he was a member of the wrestling team and
18 school choir; he also served as drill team commander with the JROTC
19 program, and he was named an expert marksman; his many hobbies
20 included fishing, hunting, and indoor archery; he returned to
21 Mansfield ISD for his last three years of high school, and he served
22 as a member and later as commander of the JROTC Physical Training
23 Team; and

24 WHEREAS, Shortly after graduating from Mansfield High School

1 in 2018, Mr. Evans joined the Texas Army National Guard; in 2019, he
2 contributed to a hurricane response mission, and he went on to serve
3 in Kuwait and Iraq before being deployed to Texas' southern border
4 for Operation Lone Star; in April 2022, he bravely jumped into the
5 Rio Grande to try to save two migrants being swept away by the
6 current; and

7 WHEREAS, Known for his kind and generous nature, Sergeant
8 Bishop Evans rendered exemplary service to his state and community,
9 and the dedication and heroism that he demonstrated will never be
10 forgotten; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Sergeant Bishop
13 Elijah Evans and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his
14 passing; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sergeant
18 Bishop Evans.