

By: Button

H.R. No. 2371

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The friends and family of McCarley Jean Rutledge,
2 who passed away on November 24, 2021, at the age of 27, will forever
3 remember her as a passionate champion for good in this world; and

4 WHEREAS, Carley Rutledge was born on May 10, 1994, to John and
5 Laura Rutledge in Fort Worth, and her childhood was spent exploring
6 the woods behind her house, performing skits with her siblings and
7 friends, and participating in family game nights that inevitably
8 descended into giddy chaos; and

9 WHEREAS, Although Ms. Rutledge's teenage years were
10 interrupted by a stage 4 Ewing Sarcoma diagnosis, she continued to
11 live her teenage life by going to concerts and parties and inviting
12 friends to the teen room at the hospital to hang out; she had a knack
13 for taking what scraps life gave her and fashioning them into
14 beautiful moments; her habit of bringing decorations and home
15 comforts along on her many hospital stays inspired Carley's Closet,
16 a service that donates similar items to young adult cancer patients
17 in 13 hospitals across Texas; and

18 WHEREAS, Two years into her cancer journey, Ms. Rutledge
19 enrolled in college at the University of Colorado Boulder and
20 blazed a trail as the first Ewing patient to receive a promising
21 cancer vaccine that other Ewing patients benefited from; she grew
22 from a bright-eyed college girl into a woman full of opinions,
23 interests, and passion, and she immersed herself in politics,
24 cooking, gardening, running, and travel; and

1 WHEREAS, After eight years, her cancer returned in her spine,
2 and following two debilitating surgeries, she spent months learning
3 to walk again; she continued excelling at her job and created a
4 popular podcast with her best friend from high school, Monica
5 Moser, called *TX Forever*; she went scuba diving in the Blue Hole in
6 Belize and ran a 10K just months after regaining her ability to
7 walk; her time was also spent in Red River, New Mexico, with her
8 family, often curled in an armchair with a huge book in her lap; she
9 giggled and played with her beloved niece and nephews, and she drove
10 from Denver to Central Texas to celebrate her grandmother's
11 birthday, all while undergoing chemo treatments; and

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Rutledge was an icon of hope in the cancer
13 community; she shared her story on behalf of the Rutledge Cancer
14 Foundation and encouraged countless other patients; furthermore,
15 she testified movingly before both the Colorado and Texas state
16 legislatures to advocate for insurance coverage of fertility
17 preservation treatments for young adult cancer patients; and

18 WHEREAS, Carley Rutledge lived each moment to the fullest and
19 met every obstacle with grace and strength, and she left an
20 indelible mark on all those who were fortunate enough to share in
21 the richness of her life; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of McCarley Jean
24 Rutledge and extend heartfelt sympathy to her parents, John and
25 Laura Rutledge, and to her many other relatives and friends; and, be
26 it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 2371

1 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carley
3 Rutledge.