

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

In Memory  
of  
Athena Strand

**WHEREAS**, Words cannot adequately express the shock and profound sorrow felt by people across Texas and throughout the nation at the tragic death of Athena Presley Monroe Strand of Paradise on December 2, 2022, at the age of seven; and

**WHEREAS**, A precious little girl who was cherished by her family and many friends, Athena Strand was born in Duncan, Oklahoma, on May 23, 2015, to Jacob Strand and Maitlyn Gandy; her circle of loved ones included her stepmother, Ashley Strand, and her sisters, Rilyn, Yrsa, and Alice, as well as her grandparents and great-grandparents and a host of other relatives who all adored her; and

**WHEREAS**, Athena was in the first grade at Paradise Elementary School, where she made friends effortlessly; she wore an irrepressible smile to match her cheerful personality, and she enjoyed dancing, singing, horseback riding, and accompanying her father to Renaissance festivals; she also loved the color pink and dreamed of growing up to be a Viking princess; and

**WHEREAS**, Athena Strand brought abundant joy to everyone around her, and although her loss is immensely difficult to bear, her memory will forever be treasured by all those who were fortunate enough to share in the blessing of her life; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Athena Presley Monroe Strand and extend deepest condolences to the

members of her family: to her parents, Maitlyn Gandy and Jacob Strand and his wife, Ashley; to her sisters, Rilyn Dawn Gandy, Yrsa Liv Strand, and Alice Elizabeth Strand; to her grandparents, Steven Kulbeth, Mark Strand, Shelly and Daymon Crittenden, and Terry Stephens and his wife, Bridget; to her great-grandparents, Doyleene Thompson, Jackie Kulbeth, Eloise Strand, and Jeannie Watson; to her aunts and uncles, Keeland Kulbeth, Kaden Jones and her husband, Jerrad, Kayla Kaul and her husband, Josh, Zachariah Strand and his wife, Heather, Elijah Strand and his wife, Madison, Andrea Larrazolo, Isaiah Castillo, Jacob Stevens, and Tyler and Christina; and to her other relatives and friends and all those who join them in mourning her passing; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Athena Strand.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 24, 2023, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate