

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 232

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of Private First Class
2 Clayton Welch Henson of Stanton are mourning the death of this
3 beloved young man who was killed in Iraq on April 17, 2004, at the
4 age of 20; and

5 WHEREAS, Private Henson was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 2nd
6 Armored Cavalry Regiment, of the United States Army, as an indirect
7 fire infantryman; he deployed to Iraq in April 2003, and over the
8 past 12 months he had spent most of his time in Baghdad; and

9 WHEREAS, At the end of his assignment in Iraq, his tour was
10 extended for another three months; shortly afterward, Private
11 Henson sustained mortal injuries when his convoy was ambushed in
12 the southern part of the country, in the city of Diwaniyah; and

13 WHEREAS, This courageous Texan was born August 25, 1983, in
14 Big Spring; he moved to Stanton during his sophomore year and
15 graduated from Stanton High School, where he played football for
16 three seasons; and

17 WHEREAS, After enlisting in the army on August 20, 2002, he
18 undertook basic training as an infantry mortarman at Fort Benning,
19 Georgia; he was subsequently made an assistant gunner and assigned
20 to Fort Polk, Louisiana; and

21 WHEREAS, Private Henson was inspired to join the army by a
22 strong sense of responsibility to this country following the
23 attacks of September 11, 2001; profoundly affected by what he saw
24 during his service in Iraq, he planned to pursue a career as a

1 physical therapist after returning to civilian life; and

2 WHEREAS, His choice of profession reflected a depth of
3 compassion, a love of life, and a drive to serve that will be sorely
4 missed by all who knew and worked with this exceptional soldier; and

5 WHEREAS, Private Henson earned the National Defense Service
6 Medal and Army Service Ribbon and was posthumously awarded the
7 Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, and Combat
8 Infantryman Badge; and

9 WHEREAS, For his valiant efforts and immeasurable sacrifice,
10 Americans owe a debt to Private Clayton Henson that can never be
11 repaid; his unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and his country
12 embodied the highest ideals of the armed forces, and the blessing of
13 his life will be forever cherished by those who were privileged to
14 share in his love and friendship; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
16 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay special tribute to the
17 life of Private First Class Clayton Welch Henson and extend deepest
18 sympathy to the members of his family: to his mother and
19 stepfather, Rosalind and James Lewis; to his father and stepmother,
20 Randy and Leta Henson; to his sisters, Melissa Henson Leiker, her
21 husband, Gabe, and their son, Ethan, and Sharon Henson and her
22 fiancé, Jake Reid; to his brothers, Lex Lewis, Brandon Anderson,
23 and Kason Anderson and his son, Justin; to his grandparents, Eldon
24 and Georgia Welch, Jimmy and Janet Henson, Virginia and Chuck
25 James, Kathleen Lewis, and Jack and Dorothy Stovall; to his
26 great-grandmothers, Jessie Glaze, Amelia Ory, and Millie St. John;
27 and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

H.R. No. 232

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family, and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Private
4 First Class Clayton Welch Henson.