

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 254

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The family and friends of Sergeant William Cody  
2 Eckhart suffered a terrible loss with the death of this brave young  
3 soldier in Iraq on April 10, 2004, at the age of 25; and

4           WHEREAS, A member of the F Troop 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry  
5 Division, Sergeant Eckhart was killed in action near Khalis while  
6 performing a reconnaissance scouting mission; he was posthumously  
7 awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his extraordinary  
8 valor; and

9           WHEREAS, Born on September 21, 1978, this lifelong resident  
10 of Rocksprings was a member of the Rocksprings High School State  
11 Cross Country 1-A championship team and the Boy Scouts; a few months  
12 after graduating from high school in 1997, he enlisted in the army,  
13 having placed so high on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude  
14 Battery Test that he had his pick of military careers; he chose  
15 scouting and, following his completion of basic training at Fort  
16 Knox, Kentucky, he was assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado, as a  
17 cavalry scout; and

18           WHEREAS, After four years, Sergeant Eckhart signed up for  
19 another tour and was deployed to Vilseck, Germany, serving overseas  
20 tours in Egypt as part of Operation Bright Star; this dedicated  
21 six-year veteran of the army had survived missions in Bosnia and  
22 Kosovo before being sent to Iraq in February 2004; he won numerous  
23 awards and citations that were proudly displayed on his bedroom  
24 wall at home; and

1           WHEREAS, Like many boys growing up in the Hill Country, Cody  
2 Eckhart enjoyed fishing, hunting, and the outdoors; he also loved  
3 serving his country and thrived on the adventure and intensity of  
4 his work, while remaining aware of the inherent dangers of his  
5 missions; although he knew during his last visit home at Christmas  
6 that he would be sent to Iraq soon, he asked his parents not to tell  
7 other family members so that they might enjoy the holidays and be  
8 spared worry over his safety; and

9           WHEREAS, Through his selfless and unfaltering devotion to  
10 duty, honor, and his country, this courageous young Texan embodied  
11 the highest ideals of the armed services, and we owe a profound debt  
12 for the enormous sacrifice that he and his family have paid; while  
13 he will be remembered always by his loved ones as a caring son,  
14 grandson, brother, nephew, and friend, he will be remembered by his  
15 country as a hero; now, therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
17 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
18 Sergeant William Cody Eckhart, United States Army, and extend  
19 profound sympathy to the members of his family: to his parents,  
20 Ronnie and Terri Eckhart; to his sisters, Staci and Erin Eckhart; to  
21 his grandparents, Dorothy Eckhart and William and Roselyn White;  
22 and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

23           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House  
25 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of U.S.  
26 Army Sergeant William Cody Eckhart.