

By: Smithee

H.C.R. No. 251

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In times of war throughout the history of our
2 nation, members of the United States military have borne enormous
3 sacrifices in this country's behalf; and

4 WHEREAS, U.S. Air Force Captain Eric Bruce Das, of the 333rd
5 Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Wing, embarked from Seymour Johnson
6 Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina, in support of the
7 campaign to liberate Iraqi citizens from oppression; he was killed
8 in action April 7, 2003, when the fighter jet he was piloting went
9 down in Iraq; and

10 WHEREAS, Born December 20, 1972, in the Netherlands, while
11 his parents were serving as missionaries there, Captain Das
12 embraced life and lived with a vivacity that distinguishes a rare
13 few; growing up, he spent many happy hours working with his father
14 in the woodworking shop in the family's backyard, and he developed
15 an ardent love of nature and adventure; he also possessed a true
16 talent for friendship, one that enriched the lives of a host of
17 individuals along his journey; and

18 WHEREAS, Captain Das--whose call sign "Boot" signaled his
19 Texas upbringing--graduated from Amarillo High School in 1991 and
20 earned a degree in civil engineering four years later from the
21 United States Air Force Academy, where his confident, caring nature
22 made him instantly popular among his peers; and

23 WHEREAS, After receiving his commission, he was assigned to a
24 civil engineering post at Kelly Air Force Base, and in 1996 he

1 attended pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base; because of his
2 outstanding skills, he had been chosen to attend the U.S. Air Force
3 Fighter Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base; and

4 WHEREAS, A loving husband, Captain Das married Nikki Das, a
5 fellow air force officer and the love of his life, on October 20,
6 2001, and the couple shared a devoted and joyful union; when his
7 wife was deployed to the Persian Gulf during the Iraqi crisis,
8 Captain Das volunteered for duty there as well, in order to be near
9 her; and

10 WHEREAS, In recognition of his exceptional service, Captain
11 Das was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Meritorious
12 Service award, and the Distinguished Flying Cross; and

13 WHEREAS, This valorous American was a highly respected
14 leader, teacher, and role model, whose integrity and humility set
15 an inspiring example for others; his strong character reflected the
16 deep faith that sustained him, both in and out of battle, and the
17 nurture and guidance of his family, which shaped him into the fine
18 man he had become; and

19 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Captain Eric Das
20 demonstrated unflinching bravery and a resolute commitment to his
21 military oath, regardless of the personal consequences, and the
22 State of Texas and the nation now mourn the loss of a beloved and
23 courageous hero; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
25 hereby honor the life of Captain Eric Bruce Das and extend deepest
26 sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, First
27 Lieutenant Nicole Das; to his parents, Bruce and Rosie Das; to his

1 sisters, Elisa Das and Melody Das Neumann and her husband, Stephen;
2 to his grandmother, Jessie Renne; and to his other relatives and
3 many friends; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
6 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
7 Captain Eric Bruce Das.