

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 921

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the sorrow felt at
2 the loss of Private First Class Howard Johnson II of Mobile,
3 Alabama, who died in the Iraqi campaign on March 23, 2003, at the
4 age of 21; and

5 WHEREAS, Private Johnson, an automated logistics specialist,
6 was one of nine soldiers from the army's 507th Maintenance Company
7 who lost their lives in an ambush in southern Iraq; before his
8 deployment to the Persian Gulf in February 2003, he was stationed at
9 Fort Bliss, near El Paso; and

10 WHEREAS, This courageous soldier enlisted in the United
11 States Army directly after his graduation from LeFlore High School,
12 where he was a member of the track team and the army ROTC; following
13 his discharge from the military, he planned to attend college and
14 study business; and

15 WHEREAS, A source of enormous pride to his family, who
16 nicknamed him Junior, Private Johnson was sustained by a strong and
17 abiding faith; he was a valued member of Truevine Missionary
18 Baptist Church in Prichard, Alabama, where his father was pastor
19 and where he played drums during church services; he also took
20 pleasure in the out-of-doors and enjoyed fishing and hunting in his
21 leisure time; and

22 WHEREAS, Private Johnson earned the fond esteem of many for
23 his kindness and readiness to help others in whatever way he could;
24 his generosity of spirit was evident in such humble actions as

1 shining the shoes of school friends when they could not afford
2 polish themselves; he also possessed a strong sense of
3 responsibility as a soldier and a deep loyalty to his unit; and

4 WHEREAS, Americans owe an immeasurable debt to their military
5 personnel, whose brave and steadfast efforts have long secured this
6 nation's treasured freedom; through his unwavering devotion to
7 duty, honor, and his country, Private Johnson embodied the highest
8 ideals of the United States armed forces, and the State of Texas and
9 the nation now mourn the loss of a hero who made the ultimate
10 sacrifice in his country's behalf, and whose life was a blessing to
11 all who were privileged to share his love and friendship; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
14 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Private First
15 Class Howard Johnson II and that it extend sincere sympathy to the
16 members of his family: to his parents, Gloria Johnson and the
17 Reverend Howard Johnson; to his sisters, Zsaquez and Geiselle; and
18 to the other relatives and many friends of this beloved young man;
19 and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Private
23 First Class Howard Johnson II.