

By: Orr

H.R. No. 262

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of Staff Sergeant Johnnie V.
2 Mason of Rio Vista suffered an immeasurable loss with his death in
3 Al Mahmudiya, Iraq, on December 19, 2005, at the age of 32; and

4 WHEREAS, Sergeant Mason was an explosive ordnance disposal
5 (EOD) supervisor assigned to the 717th Ordnance Company, 184th
6 Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance
7 Detachment), based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; he was felled by an
8 improvised explosive device he was working to disarm, after sending
9 the other members of his unit to take cover; through his bravery and
10 decisive action, he saved the lives of a number of other soldiers;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Born to a military family in Bad Kreuznach, Germany,
13 Sergeant Mason lived in Rio Vista from the time he was about 12
14 until he graduated from Rio Vista High School in 1992; by his
15 mid-teens, Johnnie Mason knew that he wanted to be a soldier, and
16 when he was 17, he obtained permission from his father to join the
17 army reserve; he entered the army in October 1992 and went on active
18 duty in 1993; and

19 WHEREAS, A door gunner and maintenance chief on Black Hawk
20 helicopters, he served in Bosnia while based in Germany and
21 patrolled the no-fly zone in Iraq while based in Turkey; and

22 WHEREAS, Seeking further challenge, he then completed a
23 rigorous, year-long program to become an EOD specialist, a position
24 that requires exceptional focus, composure, and analytical

1 ability, as well as the capacity to continually adapt to changing
2 technology and tactics; and

3 WHEREAS, Recognized for his outstanding proficiency and
4 dedication, Sergeant Mason often traveled with the Bush-Cheney
5 campaign in 2004 to check hotels and ballrooms for explosives, and
6 he also accompanied President Bush to Crawford; while stationed at
7 Fort Campbell, he served as a reserve deputy/bomb squad volunteer
8 with the Montgomery County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office, and he
9 played an instrumental role in designing the EOD truck that was used
10 on base; and

11 WHEREAS, Sergeant Mason deployed to Iraq in June 2005; during
12 his tour there, his unit dismantled three or four bombs a day and
13 sometimes twice that number; and

14 WHEREAS, The youngest member of the American Legion post in
15 Rio Vista, an organization he joined at the age of 17, this
16 soldier's soldier had a buoyant spirit and generous heart; his
17 ready smile, irrepressible good humor, and thoughtfulness toward
18 others won him the deep affection of his family, friends, and
19 comrades, and his consummate professionalism earned him their
20 highest esteem; and

21 WHEREAS, Sergeant Mason was the devoted husband of Brook
22 Mason and the proud stepfather of Ashley and Adam Bradley; and

23 WHEREAS, The many awards and decorations conferred on this
24 valiant soldier include two Purple Hearts and the Army Commendation
25 Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense
26 Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Army
27 Service Ribbon, and Army Overseas Service Ribbon, as well as the

1 Army Aviator Badge and expert Weapons Qualification badge; Sergeant
2 Mason was laid to rest with full military honors in Arlington
3 National Cemetery; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout his service in the military, Johnnie V.
5 Mason embodied the highest ideals of the United States Army, and his
6 fellow citizens owe him a debt of gratitude that the passage of time
7 can never diminish; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
9 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
10 Staff Sergeant Johnnie V. Mason and extend sincere sympathy to the
11 members of his family: to his wife, Brook Mason; to his
12 stepchildren, Ashley and Adam Bradley; to his father and
13 stepmother, Rodger and Georgia Mason; to his stepsister and
14 brother-in-law, Norma and Jesse Hawk; and to all who mourn the
15 passing of this beloved Texan; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Staff
19 Sergeant Johnnie V. Mason.