

By: Geren

H.R. No. 2271

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of U.S. Army Captain Blake
2 Harrison Russell of Fort Worth suffered an immeasurable loss with
3 the death of this valiant soldier in Iraq on July 22, 2006, at the
4 age of 35; and

5 WHEREAS, Assigned to the army's 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry
6 Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air
7 Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Captain Russell was killed
8 during combat operations in Baghdad while serving his second tour
9 of duty in Iraq; and

10 WHEREAS, Born September 7, 1970, in East Point, Georgia,
11 Blake Russell graduated in 1988 from Boswell High School in Fort
12 Worth, where he was a quarterback on the football team and a
13 shortstop on the baseball team; he served in the U.S. Navy before
14 attending Texas A&M University and earning a bachelor's degree in
15 marketing in 1998; and

16 WHEREAS, Following graduation, Captain Russell enlisted in
17 the army and went on to serve as a general's aide; deployed to Iraq
18 for the first time in 2003, he served as a field artillery officer
19 in Al Anbar Province, and on his return two years later, as chief of
20 an instruction team that lived and worked with Iraqi army troops; he
21 was recognized for his courageous service with the Bronze Star and
22 the Purple Heart; and

23 WHEREAS, Captain Russell was beloved by all who knew him for
24 his charm, wit, and chivalry; rarely seen without a smile, he

1 enjoyed five years of marriage to his wife, Bellinda, and he took
2 great pride in their children, Dylan and Haley; and

3 WHEREAS, Through his unwavering dedication to duty and honor,
4 Blake Russell embodied the highest ideals of the United States
5 armed forces; although his death has left a void in the lives of
6 those who loved him, memories of his compassion, heroism, and
7 fortitude will forever be treasured; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Army Captain
10 Blake Harrison Russell and extend sincere sympathy to the members
11 of his family: to his wife, Bellinda Stine Russell; to his children,
12 Dylan and Haley Russell; to his mother, Janice Perkins; to his
13 father, Ron Russell, and his wife, Donna; to his sisters, Rhona
14 Jesperson and her husband, Bob, and Deidra Earle and her husband,
15 Andrew; to his grandmother, Mrs. L. C. Harrison; to his
16 mother-in-law, Helga Stine, and her husband, Paul Lager; to his
17 brother-in-law, Robb Stine, and his wife, Shannon; and to his other
18 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Captain
22 Blake Harrison Russell.