

By: Macias

H.R. No. 2414

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the heartache felt
2 at the death of U.S. Army First Lieutenant Phillip Isaac Neel of
3 Fredericksburg, who lost his life while bravely serving his country
4 in Iraq on April 8, 2007, at the age of 27; and

5 WHEREAS, Assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment,
6 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, First Lieutenant
7 Neel sustained a mortal injury when his unit was attacked by enemy
8 forces near the city of Balad; and

9 WHEREAS, The second oldest of six children born to Leroy and
10 Kathy Neel, Phillip Neel graduated in 1998 from Fredericksburg High
11 School, where he was a member of the cross-country team and a
12 student in the "Principles of Technology" rocket program; he went
13 on to complete two years of service in the U.S. Army, during which
14 time he served as an Airborne unit paratrooper in Kosovo and
15 advanced to the rank of specialist; with his sights set on becoming
16 a commissioned officer, he received an appointment to the U.S.
17 Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned as a second
18 lieutenant in 2005; he was deployed to Iraq in October 2006; and

19 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Neel was the recipient of numerous
20 military decorations, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart,
21 the Army Achievement Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal with Bronze
22 Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service
23 Medal, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Parachute Badge; and

24 WHEREAS, Widely admired for his leadership, his devotion to

1 his faith, and his unfailing integrity, Phillip Neel especially
2 inspired his five siblings, who often looked to him for guidance
3 when they faced challenges; he was deeply committed to serving his
4 country and carrying on the legacy of his father, a retired
5 lieutenant colonel, while he also dreamt of someday practicing law
6 and living in a small town; moreover, he was a talented parachute
7 athlete and had performed in several national competitions with the
8 West Point Parachute Team; and

9 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Neel embodied the highest
10 standards of the United States armed forces, and his valiant
11 efforts and immense sacrifice are deserving of the respect and
12 appreciation of every American; although his loss has left a
13 tremendous void in the lives of all who knew him, they will forever
14 treasure the memory of his heroic and patriotic service; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of First Lieutenant
18 Phillip Isaac Neel and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
19 family: to his parents, Colonel (Ret.) Leroy Neel and Kathy Neel; to
20 his siblings, Kelly Foster and Jesse, Oliver, Erin, and Joe Neel; to
21 his grandmother, Katherine Lewis; and to his other relatives and
22 many friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of First
26 Lieutenant Phillip Isaac Neel.