

By: Brown of Kaufman

H.R. No. 1172

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the tragic loss of
2 U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan David Arthur Emard, who died in Iraq
3 on June 4, 2008, at the age of 20; and

4 WHEREAS, "J. D." Emard was born in Dallas on May 17, 1988, to
5 David and Debbie Emard; he grew up in Garland and Terrell and
6 graduated from Boles High School in Quinlan, where he was a member
7 of the soccer team and the varsity football team; a young man of
8 many interests, he also participated in the teen productions at
9 Rockwall Community Playhouse theater; and

10 WHEREAS, While a senior in high school, Specialist Emard
11 enlisted in the U.S. Army, and he became an airborne ranger assigned
12 to 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team,
13 10th Mountain Division, based in Fort Drum, New York; he was
14 deployed to Iraq in August of 2007; and

15 WHEREAS, Specialist Emard was a courageous and highly
16 decorated soldier; he received numerous awards for his
17 distinguished service, including a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart with
18 two oak leaf clusters, and a National Defense Service Medal; he also
19 demonstrated great compassion when he attempted to save the life of
20 a young Iraqi girl who had been gravely injured by a rocket
21 propelled grenade; and

22 WHEREAS, An outstanding marksman from an early age,
23 Specialist Emard was a sniper recon, and he earned expert weapons
24 and rifle badges; and

1 WHEREAS, He was known for his humor, his outgoing nature, and
2 his genuine affection for people; he freely and openly gave his
3 friendship, provided comfort to those in distress, and defended the
4 oppressed; he carried memories of his beloved family with him to
5 sustain and lift his spirit during the trials of war and kept a
6 photograph of his six-month-old niece, Cina, in his helmet; and

7 WHEREAS, Through his unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and
8 this country, J. D. Emard embodied the highest ideals of the United
9 States armed forces, and his fellow citizens owe him a debt of
10 gratitude that the passage of time can never diminish; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Specialist Jonathan
14 David Arthur Emard and extend deepest sympathy to his family: to his
15 parents, David and Debbie Emard; to his sister, Jennifer Marler,
16 and her husband, Justin; to his nieces, Riley "Cina" Marler and
17 Aeryel Marler; to his grandmother, Jean Emard; 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 J. D.
22 Emard.