

By: Madden

H.R. No. 2303

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of U.S. Army Second
2 Lieutenant Peter H. Burks of Dallas sustained a heavy loss with the
3 death of this courageous soldier in Iraq on November 14, 2007, at
4 the age of 26; and

5 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Burks was killed by an improvised
6 explosive device in Baghdad while serving as a member of the 4th
7 Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, which is based in Vilseck,
8 Germany; and

9 WHEREAS, Born on April 10, 1981, in Atlanta, Georgia, Pete
10 Burks was the son of Jackie Merck and Alan Burks; he developed his
11 strong spiritual faith early in his life and graduated from Trinity
12 Christian Academy in 1999; and

13 WHEREAS, After beginning his college studies at the
14 University of Georgia, he transferred to Texas A&M University,
15 where he became a member of Pi Kappa Phi and served as a
16 sportswriter for the *Battalion*; he graduated with a bachelor's
17 degree in international studies and then held jobs as a tour guide
18 in Nice, France, and as an employee of the Dallas Cowboys, the
19 Dallas Desperados, and FC Dallas; in addition, he was very active in
20 the Young Life youth ministry organization; and

21 WHEREAS, This dedicated young man answered his nation's call
22 to duty in April 2006 and enlisted in the U.S. Army; he
23 distinguished himself in his training courses and developed into an
24 officer of great integrity and courage; given the role of a troop

1 leader in the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, he soon won the lasting
2 respect and admiration of his fellow soldiers; and

3 WHEREAS, Inspired by a love of country and a desire to serve a
4 higher calling, Pete Burks embodied the highest ideals of the armed
5 services, and those who shared in his love and friendship will
6 forever treasure their memories of him; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Army Second
9 Lieutenant Peter H. Burks and extend deepest condolences to the
10 members of his family: to his mother, Jackie Merck; to his father,
11 Alan Burks; to his sisters, Ali, Sarah, and Georgia Burks; to his
12 brother, Zac Burks; to his fiancée, Melissa Haddad; to his
13 grandmother, Irene Merck; to his grandfather, Haskell Burks; to his
14 nephews, Oliver and Liam Denson; to his aunts and uncles, Brenda and
15 Jim Brooks, Laurie and Ivan Killen, Carlton and Bonnie Hays, Mike
16 and Susan Burks, and Tim Merck; and to his other relatives and many
17 friends; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Second
21 Lieutenant Peter Burks.