

By: Turner of Harris

H.R. No. 2318

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of U.S. Army Private Alan
2 Jerome Austin, of Houston, suffered a great loss with his death on
3 August 12, 2007, at the age of 21, while on duty in Afghanistan; and

4 WHEREAS, This outstanding soldier was assigned to the 782nd
5 Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne
6 Division, and was based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; he deployed
7 with his unit to Afghanistan in support of NATO's International
8 Security Assistance Force in January 2007, and he was mortally
9 injured in a Humvee accident near Forward Operating Base Sharana in
10 Paktika Province; and

11 WHEREAS, Raised in Houston, Alan Austin graduated in 2004
12 from the Girls and Boys Preparatory Academy; after receiving his
13 diploma, he attended culinary school for a year and then worked as a
14 security guard before joining the army in March 2006; and

15 WHEREAS, Private Austin was proud to serve his country and
16 intended to reenlist; a highly focused young man who had a zest for
17 life and for learning, he had his sights set on attending advanced
18 airborne school and becoming a noncommissioned officer; his plans
19 also included studying psychology and obtaining a college degree;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Part of a close-knit, loving family, Private Austin
22 assumed the role of protector early in life; his upright character,
23 compassionate nature, and brilliant smile endeared him to a host of
24 friends and gave promise of a bright future; typical of his

1 determination to make a positive difference in the world was the
2 hard work he put in helping victims of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina;
3 in his free time, he enjoyed not only cooking but also dancing and
4 writing poetry and short stories, and he loved parades and mariachi
5 music; and

6 WHEREAS, Among the numerous military awards conferred on
7 Private Austin were the Meritorious Service Medal, Army
8 Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal, as well as the Army
9 Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan
10 Campaign Medal, and Combat Action Badge; and

11 WHEREAS, Alan Austin represented this country and its armed
12 forces with courage and honor, and those who were blessed to share
13 in his love and affection will forever hold him close in their
14 hearts; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Private Alan Jerome
17 Austin and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to
18 his mother, Rhonda Austin; to his brother, Matthew McDaniel; to his
19 grandfather, Sidney Austin, Jr.; to his father, James Earl Carter,
20 Jr.; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Private
24 Alan Jerome Austin.