

By: Darby

H.R. No. 722

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Deputy Joshua Shane Mitchell of the Reagan County
2 Sheriff's Office was killed in the line of duty on August 1, 2012,
3 at the age of 26, and his untimely death represents a tragic loss to
4 his family, to his fellow officers, and to the entire community of
5 Big Lake; and

6 WHEREAS, Born on July 22, 1986, in Wichita Falls, Josh
7 Mitchell attended Reagan County High School and began his career
8 with the sheriff's office as a night jailer while earning his degree
9 from Howard College; he then entered the Concho Valley Regional Law
10 Enforcement Academy, and after graduating, he joined the department
11 as a patrol officer in 2008; that same year, he married his high
12 school sweetheart and the love of his life, the former Jill
13 Matthews; and

14 WHEREAS, Deputy Mitchell enjoyed working with children and in
15 2011 became a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer in
16 local schools; the following year, he began his duties as a K-9
17 officer, patrolling the streets of Big Lake with his trained
18 sidekick, Sherlock; and

19 WHEREAS, Beyond his official duties with the sheriff's
20 department, Deputy Mitchell was a firefighter for the North Reagan
21 County and Big Lake Volunteer Fire Departments, the latter of which
22 named him its Rookie of the Year in 2007; he often served alongside
23 his mother, who is also a volunteer firefighter; and

24 WHEREAS, Known for his easy demeanor and kind nature, Deputy

1 Mitchell was passionate about the west Texas region in which he
2 lived; he involved his family and friends in many of his outdoor
3 adventures, including fishing, hunting, boating, and farming, and
4 he also took time out of his busy schedule to care for the lawn of
5 Community Baptist Church in Stiles, where he was a member; and

6 WHEREAS, This courageous Texan exemplified the highest
7 standards of his profession, and he will long be remembered for his
8 profound dedication to public service and for his tireless efforts
9 in behalf of his fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Deputy Josh Mitchell
12 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
13 wife, Jill Mitchell; to his mother, Cindy Mitchell; to his sisters,
14 Bethany Hardison and Jacy Mankin and her husband, J. L.; to his
15 grandparents, Marvin and Betty Mitchell; to his father-in-law and
16 mother-in-law, Jimmy and Linda Matthews; to his sister-in-law,
17 Julie Matthews; to his brother-in-law, Michael Matthews, and his
18 wife, Natalie; to his other relatives and friends; and to all those
19 associated with the Reagan County Sheriff's Office; and, be it
20 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 Deputy Josh
24 Mitchell.