

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family and friends of U.S. Army Captain Andrew
2 Michael Pedersen-Keel suffered an immeasurable loss with the death
3 of this valiant soldier on March 11, 2013, at the age of 28; and

4 WHEREAS, Assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Special
5 Forces Group (Airborne), out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Captain
6 Pedersen-Keel was killed in Jalrez District, Afghanistan, while
7 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom; and

8 WHEREAS, Andrew Pedersen-Keel was born on June 8, 1984, in
9 South Miami, Florida, to Helen Pedersen and Henry Keel; he grew up
10 in Madison, Connecticut, and attended Avon Old Farms High School,
11 where he was admired for his charisma and for his athletic prowess
12 on the wrestling, lacrosse, and football teams; and

13 WHEREAS, After graduating in 2002, Captain Pedersen-Keel
14 became a member of the first class to enter the U.S. Military
15 Academy at West Point after 9/11, earning a bachelor's degree in
16 American legal studies in 2006; he went on to attend the Infantry
17 Officer Basic Training Course and the U.S. Army Ranger School at
18 Fort Benning, Georgia, after which he was assigned to Fort Hood as
19 an infantry rifle platoon leader with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team,
20 1st Infantry Division; and

21 WHEREAS, In June 2008, Captain Pedersen-Keel was deployed to
22 Afghanistan with the 3rd Brigade as a company executive officer,
23 and in September of that year, he became the leader of 3rd Platoon,
24 B Company, in Kandahar Province, leading his platoon on more than

1 150 combat foot patrols and three air assault operations; during
2 that time, he was promoted to the rank of captain; and

3 WHEREAS, Returning home in 2009, Captain Pedersen-Keel
4 volunteered for the Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course;
5 he went on to attend the Maneuver Captains Career Course in 2010,
6 and in 2011, he graduated from the Special Forces Qualification
7 Course; he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces
8 Group, as an ODA commander before being deployed in August 2012 for
9 a second tour in Afghanistan, where he dedicated himself to
10 training the Afghan army; and

11 WHEREAS, Captain Pedersen-Keel's decorations and awards
12 include two Bronze Stars, the Army Commendation Medal, the National
13 Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global
14 War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, the NATO Medal, the Combat
15 Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Ranger Tab,
16 the Special Forces Tab, the Pathfinder Badge, the Air Assault
17 Badge, and the Parachutist Badge; he also received posthumously a
18 third Bronze Star and a Purple Heart; and

19 WHEREAS, During his time at Fort Hood, this outstanding young
20 man learned to love Central Texas; he took particular pleasure in
21 visiting friends and family in Austin and in running with his dog,
22 Lady, on the hike and bike trail around Lady Bird Lake; he was
23 engaged to be married, and he had recently purchased a home in North
24 Carolina; and

25 WHEREAS, Taking to heart the motto of the U.S. Army Special
26 Forces, *de oppresso liber*, "to free the oppressed," Andrew
27 Pedersen-Keel embodied the highest ideals of our nation's armed

1 forces, and the memory of his courage, patriotism, and kindness
2 will continue to inspire and comfort all those he leaves behind;
3 now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Army Captain
6 Andrew Michael Pedersen-Keel and extend sincere condolences to the
7 members of his family: to his mother, Helen Pedersen Keiser and her
8 husband, Bob Keiser; to his father, Henry Keel; to his sister, Mary
9 Elizabeth Keel; to his fiancée, Celeste Pizza; and to his other
10 relatives and friends; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Captain
14 Andrew Michael Pedersen-Keel.

Anderson

Straus	M. Gonzalez of El Paso	Oliveira
Allen	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Alonzo	Gooden	Otto
Alvarado	Guerra	Paddie
Anchia	Guillen	Parker
Anderson	Gutierrez	Patrick
Ashby	Harless	Perez
Aycock	Harper-Brown	Perry
Bell	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bohac	Herrero	Pickett
Bonnen of Brazoria	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Galveston	Howard	Price
Branch	Huberty	Raney
Burkett	Hughes	Ratliff
Burnam	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Callegari	Johnson	Riddle
Canales	Kacal	Ritter
Capriglione	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Carter	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Clardy	King of Parker	Rose
Coleman	King of Taylor	Sanford
Collier	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Cook	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cortez	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Craddick	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Creighton	Krause	Simmons
Crownover	Kuempel	Simpson
Dale	Larson	Smith
Darby	Laubenberg	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Lavender	Springer
J. Davis of Harris	Leach	Stephenson
S. Davis of Harris	Lewis	Stickland
Deshotel	Longoria	Strama
Dukes	Lozano	Taylor
Dutton	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Eiland	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	Martinez	Toth
Fallon	Martinez Fischer	Turner of Collin
Farias	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farney	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	Villalba
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas

H.R. No. 1720

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1720 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 1, 2013.

Chief Clerk of the House