

By: N. Gonzalez of El Paso

H.R. No. 2639

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the sorrow felt at
2 the loss of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Francis Gene Phillips IV of
3 Meridian, New York, who died in Afghanistan on May 4, 2013, at the
4 age of 28; and

5 WHEREAS, Assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st
6 Battalion, 36th Infantry, 1st Armored Division out of Fort Bliss,
7 Staff Sergeant Phillips was one of five soldiers killed when their
8 vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device in Maiwand,
9 Afghanistan; and

10 WHEREAS, Frankie Phillips was born in Oakland, California, on
11 August 18, 1984, to Francis G. Phillips III and Cherie Forslund
12 Phillips; after graduating from Oceanside High School, he moved
13 with his family to Meridian, New York, and then to nearby Auburn in
14 2003; he enlisted in the army in 2004 and trained at Fort Benning,
15 Georgia; in 2005, he was deployed to Iraq, and in 2007, he began a
16 15-month deployment to Afghanistan, returning in 2009 for 12 more
17 months; after training at the Ranger School, Staff Sergeant
18 Phillips was stationed at Fort Bliss, and in December 2012, he
19 returned to Afghanistan as the Reconnaissance Platoon team leader;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, His commendations include the Bronze Star Medal, the
22 Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor device, the
23 Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army
24 Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct

1 Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Global War on Terrorism Service
2 Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal
3 with a campaign star, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with a
4 campaign star, the NATO Medal, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the
5 Parachutist Badge, and the Combat Infantryman Badge; and

6 WHEREAS, Although the tragic death of this brave young man is
7 a sobering reminder of the cost of war, Frankie Phillips embodied
8 the highest ideals of the U.S. armed forces, and those who knew and
9 loved him will forever carry him close in their hearts; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Army Staff
13 Sergeant Francis Gene Phillips IV and extend sincere condolences to
14 the members of his family: to his wife, Christine Phillips; to his
15 daughter, Sophia Phillips; to his mother, Cherie Phillips, and her
16 fiance, Greg Race; to his father, Francis Phillips III; to his
17 brother, David Phillips; to his sister, Danielle Nicole Phillips;
18 to his grandparents, Jonnie Maxson-Manker, Betty Roberts, and Frank
19 F. Phillips, Jr.; and to his other relatives and friends; 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 Francis
24 Gene Phillips IV.