86R6712 JGH-D

By:  Shine H.R. No. 301

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Family and friends will forever treasure their memories of Jeffrey Allen Harford of Belton, who died on November 23, 2018, at the age of 66; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Harford was born to William and Frances Harford in Belfast, Maine, on September 18, 1952, and he grew up with seven siblings, Jerry, Ronnie, Bill, Steve, Marcia, Joni, and Ethel; shortly after graduating from Belfast High School in 1970, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served for 26 years with great distinction as a helicopter gunship pilot; during the first Gulf War in 1990, he was deployed to Saudi Arabia and Iraq with the 229th Aviation Regiment, also known as the Flying Tigers; returning home in 1991, he moved to Fort Hood, where he retired in 1996 at the rank of chief warrant officer 4; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harford operated car washes in Belton and Harker Heights for several years before coming back to Fort Hood as a contractor; in 2007, he returned to active duty, serving in Iraq as a helicopter pilot with the 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment before retiring again in 2009, having accumulated 5,000 hours of flying time; his commendations included the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Medal (3rd award), among many others; at the time of his death, he was working again as a contractor at Fort Hood with System Studies and Simulation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harford married his wife, Janet, in 1990, and the couple shared 28 years together until his death; he was the proud father of four children, Hunter, Holly, Heidi, and the late Hope Harford, and later in life he was blessed with 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, A man of deep religious faith, Mr. Harford was a member of Temple Bible Church, where he served as a driver for the Impact backyard Bible clubs and as a leader of community Bible study sessions; he was also active with the Boy Scouts, helping to coordinate adventure treks in New Mexico, Minnesota, and the Bahamas; more recently, he served as den leader and cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack No. 153, organizing the pack's most successful popcorn fund-raiser, which garnered $36,000; and

WHEREAS, A devoted family man and a proud military veteran, Jeff Harford lived a rich and purposeful life, and he leaves behind a legacy of dedication to his nation and his community that will forever inspire all those who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Jeffrey Allen Harford and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and many friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jeffrey Allen Harford.