

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 2192

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The family of U.S. Army Private First Class Herschel
2 Mearl Riggs of Rio Grande City are welcoming him home, nearly 70
3 years after he was killed in action at the age of 18 in the Korean
4 War; and

5 WHEREAS, Herschel Riggs was born in Fort Ringgold on
6 September 21, 1931, to Herschal and Lille Lund Riggs; answering his
7 nation's call to duty, he served in the U.S. Army as a member of
8 Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th
9 Infantry Division; his medals and commendations included a Purple
10 Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal,
11 the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service
12 Medal, and the Korean War Service Medal; and

13 WHEREAS, After the Battle of Kum River in South Korea,
14 Private Riggs was presumed missing in action on July 16, 1950, and
15 his unidentified remains were recovered in 1950 and buried
16 anonymously in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in
17 Hawaii; he was declared dead on July 31, 1953; and

18 WHEREAS, In the decades since, the members of Private Riggs's
19 family never gave up hope of finding him; their many years of
20 effort, including trips to Korea and Japan, were rewarded when his
21 remains in Hawaii were identified through DNA analysis; he is being
22 reinterred next to his sister, Norma Riggs Saenz, in Pearsall on May
23 25, 2019, with full military honors; and

24 WHEREAS, A brave and dedicated soldier, Herschel Riggs made

1 the ultimate sacrifice in behalf of his country, and his fellow
2 citizens owe him a debt of gratitude that the passage of time can
3 never diminish; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Private Herschel M.
6 Riggs and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family; and, be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
10 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Herschel
11 Mearl Riggs.