

By: A. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 713

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Houston-area residents were shocked and deeply
2 saddened by the tragic shooting death of Cesar Cortes on January 14,
3 2020, at the age of 19; and

4 WHEREAS, A senior at Bellaire High School, Cesar Cortes was
5 the commander of the school's Junior Reserve Officers Training
6 Corps Delta Company; he was killed in the JROTC supply room before
7 drill practice when a younger cadet was showing off a handgun and
8 pulled the trigger, hitting Mr. Cortes in the chest; the shooter was
9 convicted of manslaughter in January 2021; and

10 WHEREAS, Cesar Cortes was an outstanding young man who
11 inspired others with his natural leadership ability; deeply
12 patriotic, he had already enlisted in the U.S. Army; he was quiet,
13 serious, and hardworking in school, and those who shared in his love
14 and friendship were drawn to his kindness, sense of humor, and
15 winning smile; and

16 WHEREAS, The death of Cesar Cortes devastated his family and
17 traumatized his school and his community; adding to the anguish,
18 several individuals reported only after the fatal shooting that
19 they had seen the younger cadet at school with the gun in his
20 possession earlier on that terrible day; moreover, the campus had
21 two previous instances of weapons possession reported in discipline
22 data for 2018-2019, and in that period, more than two dozen cases
23 were reported across the Houston Independent School District; and

24 WHEREAS, Cesar Cortes planned to devote his career to the

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1 defense of his fellow Americans, and his life can best be honored by
2 ensuring that no other family endures the heartbreak and loss that
3 his loved ones have endured; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Cesar Cortes.