

By: Neave

H.R. No. 2090

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The tragic death of U.S. Army Specialist Vanessa  
2 Guillén on April 22, 2020, at the age of 20, shocked and saddened  
3 countless people across the state and nation, and it is indeed  
4 appropriate to reflect on her life and legacy on the occasion of  
5 Vanessa Guillén Day on September 30, 2021; and

6           WHEREAS, A native of Houston, Vanessa Guillén was born on  
7 September 30, 1999, to Rogelio and Gloria Guillén, and she grew up  
8 with the companionship of five siblings, Mayra, Yovana, Guadalupe,  
9 Manuel, and Roger; she excelled as both a student and an athlete at  
10 Cesar Chavez High School, and her desire to serve her country  
11 inspired her to enlist in the United States Army when she was 18  
12 years old; only a few days after she graduated from high school, she  
13 began her career in the military and entered basic training; and

14           WHEREAS, First stationed in South Carolina and then in  
15 Virginia, Specialist Guillén was later assigned to Fort Hood as a  
16 small arms/artillery repairer with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment; she  
17 was recognized for her dedication to duty with the Army  
18 Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the  
19 Army Service Ribbon; and

20           WHEREAS, Vanessa Guillén went missing from her post on April  
21 22, 2020, and on June 30 her body was discovered; in the  
22 investigation that followed, law enforcement identified a fellow  
23 soldier as the prime suspect in her murder, and it was also revealed  
24 that Specialist Guillén was planning to formally accuse the man of

1 sexual harassment; this turn of events inspired many current and  
2 former members of the U.S. military, including those who had  
3 experienced sexual harassment and sexual assault, to stand in  
4 solidarity with Specialist Guillén, and they were joined by  
5 countless members of the general public; and

6       WHEREAS, The death of Specialist Guillén has focused  
7 attention on the current laws and policies regarding sexual  
8 harassment in the military; in an effort to achieve meaningful  
9 change in the wake of this tragedy, the I am Vanessa Guillén Act was  
10 introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan  
11 support; if the legislation becomes law, it would mandate a  
12 comprehensive reform of the military's procedures for handling  
13 sexual harassment allegations; in Texas, House Concurrent  
14 Resolution 51 was filed during the 87th Legislative Session to urge  
15 Congress to pass the act; and

16       WHEREAS, Although Vanessa Guillén's senseless death is a  
17 source of profound sadness, her spirit lives on in the hearts of her  
18 loved ones and all those who are fighting for justice in her name;  
19 now, therefore, be it

20       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby recognize September 30, 2021, as Vanessa Guillén  
22 Day and pay tribute to her memory.