

By: Curry

H.R. No. 15

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The tragic loss of John Louis Burgess IV, Julia
2 Walsh Anderson Burgess, John Louis Burgess V, and James Littleton
3 Burgess on July 4, 2025, during the Hill Country floods has
4 profoundly saddened their family and their many friends and
5 neighbors in the Liberty community; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Waco on February 26, 1986, John Burgess was
7 the son of Patricia Morris and John Louis Burgess; after graduating
8 from China Spring High School in 2004, he attended Le Cordon Bleu
9 Culinary School and later worked as a chef at Yellowstone National
10 Park Lodges and at a Michelin two-star restaurant in southern
11 Italy; and

12 WHEREAS, On March 5, 2011, Mr. Burgess exchanged wedding vows
13 with the former Julia Anderson, and he went on to transition to a
14 career in her family's business, becoming a licensed funeral
15 director; he was subsequently employed as a financial advisor and
16 an accredited asset management specialist, and in the fall of 2023,
17 he opened a branch office of Edward Jones in Porter; over the years,
18 he was recognized with numerous awards for his achievements as a
19 funeral director and financial advisor, and he volunteered his time
20 as president-elect for the Rotary Club of East Montgomery County;
21 guided by their deep faith, he and Mrs. Burgess were active members
22 of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and he further served on the
23 board of directors for Camp Allen of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Julia Burgess was born in Roswell, New Mexico, on
2 October 3, 1985, to Donna Soper and William Covert Anderson; she
3 graduated from Lamar Consolidated High School in 2003 before
4 earning her bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University and
5 her master of education degree from Angelo State University; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Burgess devoted herself passionately to her
7 career as an educator for more than 15 years, and she touched the
8 lives of countless students through her efforts as a teacher, a
9 volleyball coach, and a coach for the Liberty High School Prancers
10 dance team; she also held membership in TCU's Zeta Tau Alpha
11 Sorority, as well as in the Kerrville Junior Service Guild, the
12 Junior League of Bell County, and the Trivium Club of Liberty; and

13 WHEREAS, John and Julia Burgess lovingly raised three
14 children; John "Jack" Burgess was born on August 19, 2019, and
15 resided for the entirety of his life in Liberty, where he
16 distinguished himself as a gifted student and enjoyed playing
17 baseball and soccer and spending time in the outdoors; the family's
18 youngest child, James Burgess, was born on October 10, 2023, and he
19 brightened the lives of his loved ones with his easygoing nature and
20 his ever-present smile; Mr. and Mrs. Burgess are survived by their
21 daughter, eight-year-old Jenna Burgess, their dog, Daisy, and
22 numerous other relatives, who have been joined by well-wishers from
23 across Texas in offering their heartfelt condolences; and

24 WHEREAS, Although their time here was far too brief, these
25 four cherished individuals were a blessing in the lives of everyone
26 around them, and the love they shared will never be forgotten; now,
27 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
2 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
3 of John Louis Burgess IV, Julia Walsh Anderson Burgess, John Louis
4 Burgess V, and James Littleton Burgess and extend deepest sympathy
5 to the members of their family: to Mr. and Mrs. Burgess's daughter,
6 Jenna Lacy Burgess; to their parents, Donna Soper Anderson and
7 Patricia Morris Burgess and John Louis Burgess III; to
8 Mrs. Burgess's grandmother, Mary-Lou Soper; to Mrs. Burgess's
9 siblings, John Anderson and his wife, Jennifer, and Joseph Anderson
10 and his wife, Megan; to Mr. Burgess's siblings, Kathy Esserman and
11 her husband, Charles, Paige Cashion and her partner, Gary Porter,
12 Ashley Weist and her husband, Tim, Leslie Jandrain and her husband,
13 Jay, David Green, Laura Rhinehardt and her husband, Bo, and Patrick
14 Green and his wife, Kori; and to their many other relatives and
15 friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for their family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of John,
19 Julia, Jack, and James Burgess.