

**SUBJECT:** Designating September 30 as Vanessa Guillén Day

**COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Raymond, Buckley, Biedermann, Gervin-Hawkins, Lambert, Lopez, E. Morales, Tinderholt

0 nays

1 absent — Cyrier

**WITNESSES:** For — Steven Price, The VOICES of Our Veterans; Gus Pena, Veterans for Progress; and six individuals; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Savannah Eldrige, Be Frank 4 Justice; Mitch Fuller, Texas VFW; Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations; Madeline Kennedy)

Against — None

**DIGEST:** HB 2556 would designate September 30 as Vanessa Guillén Day in memory of the life and tragic death of Vanessa Guillén and to increase awareness of and the military's response to missing persons, sexual assault, and sexual harassment cases for service members. Vanessa Guillén Day would be regularly observed by appropriate programs and activities.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 2556 would recognize the life and memory of Army Specialist Vanessa Guillén. In April 2020, 20-year-old PFC Guillén was reported missing from Fort Hood and was later found to have been murdered by a fellow soldier. Naming September 30, which was PFC Guillén's birthday, as Vanessa Guillén Day would honor PFC Guillén's life.

**CRITICS SAY:** No concerns identified.