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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of United States Army Staff Sergeant Jeremy E. Bessa, who was killed in action in Khordi, Afghanistan on February 20, 2009, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

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WHEREAS, SSG Jeremy Bessa was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on May 11, 1982; he lived in Woodridge for two years during his junior and senior years of high school at Downers Grove South; and

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WHEREAS, SSG Jeremy Bessa volunteered for military service in April of 2002, following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; after earning the coveted "Green Beret" in March of 2007, he was assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina as a Special Forces Communications Sergeant; he was deployed to Afghanistan in January of 2009, his third deployment in support of the Global War on Terror and his second deployment to Afghanistan; and

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WHEREAS, SSG Jeremy Bessa was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star in honor of his courage and dedication to his country; and

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1           WHEREAS, SSG Jeremy Bessa is survived by his wife, Lindsey  
2 Melton Bessa; his son, Carson; his parents, Ted and Julie  
3 Bessa; his brothers, Christopher and Joel Bessa; and his  
4 sister, Bryana Bessa; and

5           WHEREAS, SSG Jeremy Bessa's patriotism and courage will be  
6 remembered fondly by his loving family, his fellow soldiers,  
7 and the citizens of our grateful nation; therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
10 his family and friends, the passing of United States Army Staff  
11 Sergeant Jeremy E. Bessa; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That we honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Jeremy  
13 Bessa and his willingness to serve our country, which led to  
14 him making the ultimate sacrifice; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Staff Sergeant Jeremy Bessa as an  
17 expression of our sympathy.