



HR0262

LRB097 11494 GRL 54187 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of United
4 States Army Staff Sergeant Matthew W. Weikert of Jacksonville,
5 who gave his life defending America's freedom on July 17, 2010,
6 in the Paktika Province in Southern Afghanistan; and

7 WHEREAS, Matthew W. Weikert was born May 15, 1981 in Sioux
8 City, Iowa; he is the son of Richard W. "Dick" and Susan B.
9 Weikert; and

10 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Matthew Weikert was a 2000 graduate
11 of Jacksonville High School, where he was a member of the
12 soccer team; he was also a member of the First Presbyterian
13 Church in Jacksonville; and

14 WHEREAS, Matthew Weikert enlisted in the United States
15 Marine Corps in August of 2001 and served 3 tours in Iraq in
16 only 4 years; he later enlisted in the United States Army,
17 where he completed another tour in Iraq; and

18 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Matthew Weikert was serving in
19 Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment,
20 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division (Air
21 Assault), out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky at the time of his

1 death; as a military leader, he had the courage to endure 5
2 deployments in support of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom
3 and considered it his personal mission to properly prepare the
4 soldiers under his command and keep them safe from harm; and

5 WHEREAS, After his dismounted patrol encountered an
6 improvised explosive device, Staff Sergeant Matthew Weikert
7 was wounded, but was able to radio the coordinates of their
8 group; helicopters were deployed to the scene, saving the life
9 of two soldiers also wounded in the attack; and

10 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Matthew Weikert was the recipient
11 of numerous decorations for his meritorious service, including
12 the Combat Action Ribbon (Navy/Marine), the Presidential Unit
13 Citation (Navy/Marine), the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the
14 Army Good Conduct Medal, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal,
15 the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service
16 Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal,
17 the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War
18 on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Navy
19 Reserve Sea Service with 2 Stars, the NATO Medal, the Combat
20 Infantry Badge, and the Combat Action Badge; he was also
21 awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star; and

22 WHEREAS, United States and Illinois State flags throughout
23 the State of Illinois flew at half-staff from July 24 to July

1 26, 2010; additionally, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear
2 ordered the flags to fly at half-staff on July 26, 2010 as a
3 symbol of mourning and honor for the sacrifice of Staff
4 Sergeant Matthew Weikert; and

5 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Matthew Weikert will be remembered
6 for his love of country, his generous spirit, his patriotism,
7 and his love for his family and friends; and

8 WHEREAS, In his spare time, Matthew Weikert enjoyed hunting
9 pheasant with his grandfather, playing golf with his family and
10 friends, and spending time with his son, Jayse, which he looked
11 forward to the most; he was also an avid St. Louis Cardinals
12 and Dallas Cowboys fan; and

13 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Matthew Weikert dedicated his life
14 to defending America's freedom and gave the ultimate sacrifice;
15 he will be missed by his mother and father, Susan B. (Kiel) and
16 Richard W. "Dick" Weikert of Jacksonville; his sisters, Meghan
17 and Melissa; his son, Jayse Schaecher Weikert; his girlfriend,
18 Danica Schild and their daughter, Mattisyn Weikert; the mother
19 of his son, Megan Schaecher; his paternal grandparents, Richard
20 A. and Virginia Weikert of Sioux City, Iowa; his maternal
21 grandparents, Reverend Wesley and Nell Kiel of Holland,
22 Michigan; his aunts and uncles, Cathy and Neil (deceased)
23 Dartman, Kim Weikert-Moner and Chris Moner, Steven (Sheryl)

1 Kiel, Sheryl (Dave) Mallehan, Scott (Cathy) Kiel; his many
2 cousins; his fellow soldiers; and the citizens of our grateful
3 nation; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we mourn, along with his family, friends, and the rest of a
7 grateful nation, the passing of United States Army Staff
8 Sergeant Matthew W. Weikert; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Staff Sergeant Matthew Weikert as a
11 symbol of our sincere sympathy.