



HR0018

LRB098 06632 MST 36675 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Army Specialist Samuel T. Watts, who gave his life for his country while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan on May 19, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Army Specialist Watts was born on August 14, 1991, in Elmhurst to Thomas and Susan Watts; and

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WHEREAS, Even as a little boy, Army Specialist Watts hoped to serve his country as a soldier; and

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WHEREAS, Army Specialist Watts attended elementary and middle school at St. John Lutheran School in Wheaton, where he also attended church with his family and graduated from Wheaton North High School in 2010; he enlisted in the United States Army in the spring of 2010, while still in high school, completing his basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, in July 2010 and joining the 508th Infantry Regiment in October 2010; and

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WHEREAS, Amy Specialist Watts was a member of Wheaton North freshman football and volleyball teams, was an avid BMX rider, attended the fire science and paramedic program at the

1 Technology Center of DuPage in Addison, and earned a
2 prestigious award for his patriotism at Wheaton North's senior
3 honors assembly; and

4 WHEREAS, Army Specialist Watts trained as an infantryman
5 and paratrooper at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was deployed to
6 Afghanistan on February 25, 2012, with the 82nd Airborne
7 Division; and

8 WHEREAS, Army Specialist Watts served his country with
9 pride as a member of the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute
10 Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne
11 Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

12 WHEREAS, The 82nd Airborne Division of the United States
13 Army is an elite modular airborne infantry division that was
14 constituted in the National Army as the 82nd Division on August
15 5th, 1917, and was organized on August 25th, 1917, at Camp
16 Gordon, Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, Army Specialist Watts was on foot patrol in the
18 Zharay district of Kandahar province of Afghanistan on April
19 25, 2012, when an improvised explosive device detonated,
20 inflicting devastating wounds upon him; and

21 WHEREAS, On May 16th, 2012, Army Specialist Watts was

1 awarded the prestigious Purple Heart in a bedside ceremony, and
2 his father, Thomas, was proud to have had the honor and
3 privilege of pinning the medal on his son; and

4 WHEREAS, Army Specialist Watts was the recipient of the
5 Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good
6 Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan
7 Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on
8 Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service
9 Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert
10 Marksman Badge, and Parachutist Badge; and

11 WHEREAS, Army Specialist Watts was included as one of the
12 fallen heroes honored at the DuPage County Memorial Day
13 Ceremony on Sunday, May 27th, 2012; and

14 WHEREAS, Friends and family will always remember Army
15 Specialist Watts as wanting to serve his country and help
16 others and for his generous spirit; and

17 WHEREAS, Friends describe Army Specialist Watts as loyal,
18 kind, noble, a fierce friend, funny, a truly genuine person,
19 the world's greatest, a fighter, a true hero, an adventurous,
20 fun-loving, and truly fearless person, and a guy you wanted on
21 your team; and

1 WHEREAS, Amy Specialist Watts planned to become a fire
2 fighter/paramedic when he returned from Afghanistan; and

3 WHEREAS, Army Specialist Watts will be fiercely missed by
4 his loving sisters, Sarah and Abigail; his loyal brother,
5 Andrew; his adoring parents, Thomas and Susan; and his caring
6 grandparents, Ruth Watts and Paul J. Keehn; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of
10 Army Specialist Samuel T. Watts; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we honor the memory of Army Specialist
12 Watts, his patriotism, and his willingness to serve his
13 country, which led him to making the ultimate sacrifice; and be
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Army Specialist Watts as a symbol of
17 our sincere sympathy.