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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Depleted uranium is the matter left over when most
3 of the highly radioactive types of uranium are removed for use
4 as nuclear fuel or nuclear weapons; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Military uses tank armor and
6 some bullets made with depleted uranium to penetrate enemy
7 armored vehicles; and

8 WHEREAS, The manufacturing of enriched uranium from
9 natural uranium used in reactors or weapons leaves behind
10 "depleted" uranium; and

11 WHEREAS, Depleted uranium has 40% less radioactivity, but
12 the exact same chemical toxicity as natural uranium; and

13 WHEREAS, When a projectile containing depleted uranium
14 penetrates a vehicle, small pieces of the uranium can become
15 embedded in muscle and soft tissue; and

16 WHEREAS, Servicemembers exposed to depleted uranium may
17 have also inhaled or swallowed small airborne particles of
18 depleted uranium; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of

1 Veterans Affairs, some veterans of the Gulf War, Operation
2 Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New
3 Dawn may have been exposed to depleted uranium as a result of
4 being in or near a vehicle that was hit by friendly fire,
5 entering or being near burning vehicles, being near fires
6 involving depleted uranium munitions, or from salvaging
7 damaged vehicles; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
9 Veterans Affairs, no health problems associated with depleted
10 uranium exposure have been found in veterans exposed to it; and

11 WHEREAS, Many servicemembers who believed they were
12 exposed to depleted uranium have gone overseas for a more
13 sophisticated urine test to detect for exposure; and

14 WHEREAS, Pfc. Aaron Barnes of Fulton County served in Iraq
15 for 26 months and became ill a year after his 2nd deployment;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Tests were performed which showed a large mass on
18 his kidney; he told doctors at the Iowa City VA Hospital that
19 he believed it was a result of exposure to depleted uranium
20 during his deployments in Iraq; after being told that the mass
21 was not a result of depleted uranium exposure, he was sent home
22 without a biopsy or additional testing; after having the mass

1 removed from his kidney, a biopsy showed a rare cancer had
2 developed; and

3 WHEREAS, Pfc. Barnes began chemotherapy treatment
4 following the removal of the mass from his kidney; he passed
5 away on August 24, 2011, leaving behind his wife, Mandy, and 2
6 children, Emma and David; and

7 WHEREAS, Servicemembers who believe they were exposed to
8 depleted uranium have had a difficult time in the VA system
9 while being tested and treated for exposure; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois
12 Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of
13 Veterans' Affairs to thoroughly study the effects of depleted
14 uranium exposure on Illinois servicemembers and veterans; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 presented to the Director of the Illinois Department of Public
18 Health and the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans'
19 Affairs.