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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of 1st Lt. Brian Slavenas of Genoa who was killed when his helicopter was shot down in Iraq on November 2, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Lt. Slavenas was born in DeKalb, about 60 miles west of Chicago, but moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana as a child; he later moved back to Illinois and attended DeKalb High School, where he played the drums and threw the discus; and

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WHEREAS, After high school, he became a paratrooper with the United States Army and then joined the same unit of the National Guard that his father was in for 17 years; he later went to officer school and decided to become a helicopter pilot; and

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WHEREAS, Lt. Slavenas had just graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with an engineering degree and was looking forward to starting a career before he was deployed in April 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Lt. Slavenas came from a family with a history of military service; his father was a paratrooper, one of his brothers fought in Grenada, and the other served in Desert Storm; and

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WHEREAS, Lt. Slavenas was from the F Company 106 Aviation Battalion based at the Greater Peoria Airport; he was one of the 16 soldiers killed when insurgents shot down a Chinook helicopter west of Bagdad; it was the deadliest strike against United States forces since they invaded Iraq in March; and

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WHEREAS, He was affectionately known as a "gentle giant"; he competed in weightlifting competitions and played the piano

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1 beautifully; and

2 WHEREAS, Lt. Slavenas's passing will be deeply felt by
3 many, especially his mother; his father and stepmother; his two
4 brothers; and his stepbrother and stepsister; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
7 mourn the passing of 1st Lt. Brian Slavenas along with all who
8 knew and loved him and extend our sincere condolences to his
9 family and friends; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we honor the memory of 1st Lt. Brian
11 Slavenas and his willingness to serve our country, which led
12 him to making the ultimate sacrifice; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of 1st Lt. Brian Slavenas as an
15 expression of our deepest sympathy.