

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, More than 31,000 members of the U.S. armed  
3 forces are not American citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, Some of them have already given their lives in  
5 Iraq defending their adopted homeland; and

6 WHEREAS, In July of 2002, President Bush announced an  
7 executive order making it easier for the families of foreign  
8 nationals killed in combat to apply for citizenship on behalf  
9 of their loved one; and

10 WHEREAS, U.S. Senators Zell Miller (Democrat-Georgia) and  
11 Saxby Chambliss (Republican-Georgia) are seeking automatic  
12 citizenship awarded posthumously for all foreign-born  
13 soldiers killed fighting for the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, While the Posthumous Citizen Restoration Act of  
15 2001, currently pending before Congress, sponsored by  
16 Congressmen Meehan, McGovern, and Frank of Massachusetts,  
17 grants the benefits of full citizenship posthumously to those  
18 members of the United States armed forces who have been  
19 killed in the defense of our nation, the same rights and  
20 benefits should likewise be extended to those living  
21 non-citizens who serve in the United States armed forces in  
22 defense of our country; and

23 WHEREAS, Although joining the military eases the  
24 application process for United States citizenship, it does  
25 not result in an automatic grant of citizenship for those who  
26 seek citizenship; and

27 WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon our country to acknowledge,  
28 not just upon a soldier's death, but also throughout their  
29 lives, the debt and gratitude of the American public for the  
30 soldier's service to our nation; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge President  
3 George W. Bush and the United States Congress to award  
4 immediate United States citizenship to every man and woman  
5 serving in the Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf and to take  
6 steps necessary to award United States citizenship to every  
7 man and woman upon their favorable discharge from the Armed  
8 Forces; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Congressional delegation is  
10 hereby memorialized to request that they petition President  
11 George W. Bush to expedite any and all actions that may be  
12 necessary to accomplish such objectives; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 delivered President George W. Bush and to the members of the  
15 Illinois Congressional delegation.