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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Sergeant First Class Ronald A. "Aaron" Grider of Brighton, who was killed while serving his country in the Kunduz province of Afghanistan on September 18, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, He was born on September 18, 1980; he was an Alton native and a 1998 graduate of Civic Memorial High School in Bethalto; he was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

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WHEREAS, He is remembered for running track and cross country and also wrestling during his high school years; he is also remembered for having a great sense of humor; and

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WHEREAS, He was airborne-qualified and served with the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg as a grenadier, rifleman, and scout team leader; during this time, he attended and graduated from Ranger school; once he was Ranger-qualified, he served with the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia, as a rifle team leader and squad leader, where he deployed once to Afghanistan and three times to Iraq; in November of 2005, he was assigned as a special operations team member, United States Army Special Operations Command, where he

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1 deployed an additional four times to Iraq and once to
2 Afghanistan; and

3 WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Ronald A. "Aaron" Grider was
4 posthumously awarded his third Bronze Star Medal and the Purple
5 Heart; his other awards include the Meritorious Service Medal,
6 the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device, three Army
7 Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement Medals, the
8 National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal
9 with two Bronze Service Stars, the Iraq Campaign Medal with six
10 Bronze Service Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary
11 and Service Medals, five Overseas Service Bars, and the
12 Valorous Unit Award; and

13 WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Ronald A. "Aaron" Grider is
14 survived by his parents, Ronald and Ginny Grider and Rita
15 Grider; his wife, Brittany Grider; and his daughter, Katie-Anne
16 Grider; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
19 his family, friends, and a grateful nation, the passing of
20 Sergeant First Class Ronald A. "Aaron" Grider; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That we honor the memory of Sergeant First Class

1 Ronald A. "Aaron" Grider and his willingness to serve his
2 country, which led to him making the ultimate sacrifice; and be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Sergeant First Class Ronald A.
6 "Aaron" Grider as a symbol of our sincere sympathy.