



HR0289

LRB104 13273 MST 25498 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Sgt.
4 Jose Duenez Jr. of Joliet, who passed away on March 25, 2025
5 while serving his country; and

6 WHEREAS, Sgt. Duenez was born to Jose and Leticia
7 (Quintero) Duenez in Joliet on April 8, 1999; he had an active
8 childhood, exploring the outdoors, riding his bike, and
9 enjoying adventures with his neighborhood friends, at times
10 dressed as his favorite superhero, Spiderman; he developed a
11 deep commitment to his faith after participating in a
12 missionary trip and maintained that faith throughout his life;
13 he enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from high school
14 in 2017; and

15 WHEREAS, Sgt. Duenez was often recognized by his peers and
16 superior officers as a trustworthy and dedicated soldier
17 during his seven-year military career; he was promoted five
18 times over the course of his service, ultimately reaching the
19 rank of staff sergeant in November of 2020; he served in three
20 overseas deployments, to Poland in 2019, Germany in 2022, and
21 Lithuania in 2025; at the time of his passing, he was scheduled
22 to attend the Advanced Leaders Course; and

1 WHEREAS, Sgt. Duenez was most recently serving in
2 Lithuania in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve as a M1
3 Abrams tank system mechanic with the U.S. Army 1st Armored
4 Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, 5th Squadron, 7th
5 Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Stewart, Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Sgt. Duenez's awards and decorations include two
7 Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, two
8 Army Good Conduct Medals, and a National Defense Service
9 Medal; and

10 WHEREAS, Sgt. Duenez had recently crossed an item off of
11 his bucket list, traveling throughout Alaska with his family;
12 he had started his own fishing YouTube channel and had
13 purchased a home and a boat; he enjoyed sushi and anime and
14 collected mangas as well as katanas; he shared a very special
15 bond with his father, and the two often referred to each other
16 as "partner"; his greatest source of pride was his son; and

17 WHEREAS, Sgt. Duenez was preceded in death by his maternal
18 grandfather, his paternal grandparents, and his niece, Sophia;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Sgt. Duenez is survived by his wife, Karen Diaz
21 Duenez; his son, Jose Duenez III; his mother, Leticia; his
22 father, Jose; his sisters, Lydia, Jessica, Eva, Rebecca, and

1 Beatriz; his 18 nieces and nephews; and many other loved ones;
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we mourn the passing of Sgt. Jose Duenez Jr. and extend our
6 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
7 and loved him; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Sgt. Duenez as an expression of our
10 deepest sympathy.