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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On May 2, 2018, a WC-130 Hercules cargo plane traveling from Savannah, Georgia to Tucson, Arizona crashed shortly after takeoff killing all nine service members on board; and

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WHEREAS, The nine service members were part of the 156th Airlift Wing, which is home to the "Bucaneros" and had nearly 170 years of combined service experience; and

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WHEREAS, The plane, attached to the Puerto Rico Air National Guard 156th Airlift Wing, was being decommissioned after more than 40 years of use; and

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WHEREAS, As part of Puerto Rico's Air National Guard fleet, the plane could be outfitted for transport, reconnaissance, search and rescue, research, refueling, patrol, or as a gunship; and

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WHEREAS, During the 2017 hurricane season, the Puerto Rico Air National Guard used the aircraft to rescue Americans from the British Virgin Islands after Hurricane Irma; later, it supplied much needed food and water to Puerto Ricans after Hurricane Maria; and

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1 WHEREAS, The roles of the nine airmen who perished were
2 essential during each mission in which they participated,
3 including the 2017 hurricane recovery rescue and resupply
4 efforts; and

5 WHEREAS, Major Jose R. Roman Rosado, the pilot, had 18
6 years of service; he is survived by his wife and two sons; and

7 WHEREAS, Major Carlos Perez Serra, the aircraft navigator,
8 had 23 years of service; he is survived by his wife, two sons,
9 and a daughter; and

10 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant David Albandoz, the co-pilot,
11 had 16 years of service; he is survived by his wife and
12 daughter; and

13 WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant Jan Paravisini, an
14 aircraft mechanic with 21 years of service, is survived by two
15 daughters and a son; and

16 WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Jean Audriffred, an airman with 16
17 years of service, is survived by his wife and two sons; and

18 WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Mario Brana, the flight engineer,
19 had 17 years of service; he is survived by his mother and
20 daughter; and

1 WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Victor Colon, an airman with 22
2 years of service, is survived by his wife and two daughters;
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4 WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Eric Circuns, a loadmaster with 31
5 years of services, is survived by his wife, two stepdaughters,
6 and a son; and

7 WHEREAS, Senior Airman Roberto Espada had three years of
8 service; he is survived by his grandmother; and

9 WHEREAS, The crash with nine fatalities brings the total
10 number of noncombat-related wrecks of military aircraft to
11 seven so far this year, resulting in 27 United States service
12 member deaths; and

13 WHEREAS, Honoring the courageous men and women who serve in
14 uniform is of the highest priority for the Illinois Senate;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we honor the lives and
18 the memory of the nine Puerto Rican service members killed in
19 the noncombat-related military plane crash in Savannah,
20 Georgia; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we extend our deepest condolences to the
2 families and loved ones of the fallen airmen; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 presented to the families of the nine Puerto Rican service
5 members.