

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, A West Aurora High School graduate who joined  
3 the Marines to play in its drum and bugle corps was killed  
4 May 19, 2003 when his helicopter crashed during a resupply  
5 mission in central Iraq; and

6 WHEREAS, First Lt. Timothy Ryan, who graduated from West  
7 High in 1991, was one of four Marines aboard a CH-46 Sea  
8 Knight helicopter when it went down in a canal about 60 miles  
9 south of Baghdad; and

10 WHEREAS, There were no survivors, and a fifth Marine  
11 drowned trying to rescue the crew; and

12 WHEREAS, Lt. Ryan's path to becoming a Marine officer was  
13 an unlikely one; he enlisted in 1997, just weeks after  
14 graduating from Illinois State University with a degree in  
15 music and days after marrying his wife Michelle; he was  
16 accepted to play percussion in the USMC Drum & Bugle Corps,  
17 an elite 80-musician ensemble of fully commissioned Marines,  
18 and soon began traveling extensively, playing at military  
19 functions across the United States and in Europe; and

20 WHEREAS, Lt. Ryan soon discovered, however, that his true  
21 passion was for flying helicopters; he graduated from the  
22 Marine Corps Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia,  
23 and "got his wings" at Whiting Airfield near Pensacola,  
24 Florida; and

25 WHEREAS, At West High, Lt. Ryan made friends easily and  
26 spent time playing in the marching band and building sets for  
27 school plays; and

28 WHEREAS, Lt. Ryan's passing will be deeply felt by many  
29 family and friends; therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing  
2 of First Lt. Timothy Ryan along with all who knew and loved  
3 him and extend our sincere condolences to his family,  
4 friends, and community; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of First Lt. Timothy Ryan as an  
7 expression of our deepest sympathy.