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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 United States Army Sergeant Mark A. Simpson of Fort Hood, Texas, formerly of Peoria, who passed away on September 26, 2010, in Kandahar, Afghanistan; and

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WHEREAS, Sgt. Mark Simpson was born on February 3, 1970, in Peoria; he was a graduate of Richwood High School; and

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WHEREAS, After working as a security guard, truck driver, and in food management, Sgt. Mark Simpson joined the United States Army in 2005; after serving tours at Fort Drum, New York and Fort Hood, Texas, he was deployed to serve in Afghanistan; and

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WHEREAS, Sgt. Mark Simpson earned numerous awards for his meritorious service, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze service star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with bronze service star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Driver and Mechanic Badge, and the Expert Rifle Badge; and

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WHEREAS, Sgt. Mark Simpson was an avid computer gamer; and

1           WHEREAS, Sgt. Mark Simpson was preceded in death by his  
2 son, Mark A. Simpson Jr.; and

3           WHEREAS, Sgt. Mark Simpson is survived by his wife, Aletha  
4 A. Simpson; his daughters, Shantallia K. Simpson, Krystin M.  
5 Simpson, and Jamie S. Simpson; his parents, George and Carol  
6 Simpson; his brother, George F. Simpson; and his sisters, Beth  
7 A. Camp, Carol K. Goewey, and Amy K. Lee; and

8           WHEREAS, Sgt. Mark Simpson's patriotism and courage will be  
9 remembered fondly by his loving family, his fellow soldiers,  
10 and the citizens of our grateful nation; therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
13 his family and friends, the passing of Sergeant Mark A.  
14 Simpson; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Sgt. Mark Simpson as an expression  
17 of our sympathy.