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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 Marine Corps Captain Thomas John Heitmann of Mendota, who passed away on September 19, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Captain Thomas Heitmann was born on November 23, 1983; his parents are Thomas F. and Mary Therese (Leonard) Heitmann; he attended Holy Cross Grade School and graduated from St. Bede Academy in 2002; while attending St. Bede, he was a top student and a well-respected athlete; and

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WHEREAS, After attending St. Bede Academy, Capt. Thomas Heitmann attended Valley Forge Military College in Wayne, Pennsylvania; at Valley Forge, he was involved in the Young Republicans Club, the Business Club, the Officers' Christian Fellowship, the Catholic Fellowship, the Regimental Choir, the Drill Team, and Student Government; in addition to his financial duties as Student Government Treasurer, he coordinated Valley Forge's Martin Luther King Day service project, which aided in constructing an operational center for Mothers Against Violence; he made Valley Forge Military College history by becoming the first first-year cadet to achieve the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant (2LT); as 2LT, he supervised the development of our nation's service academy's Prepster

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1 Program and Valley Forge's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps  
2 Early Commissioning Program; he was also inducted into the  
3 Anthony Wayne Legion Guard prior to leaving Valley Forge; and

4 WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann was accepted to  
5 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach,  
6 Florida; he was the recipient of the National Naval Reserve  
7 Officer Training Corps Marine Option Scholarship in the fall of  
8 2006, beating out every Midshipman in the nation for the  
9 prestigious award; he also received the physical fitness and  
10 leadership awards; and

11 WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann was heavily involved in the  
12 performing arts; he played the role of Jesus in the Open Door  
13 Stage Company's performance of "Godspell"; he also performed at  
14 Carnegie Hall in New York with the Regimental Choir; and

15 WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann was commissioned as an  
16 officer in the United States Marine Corps in 2008; after  
17 completing his training at the Naval Air Stations in Corpus  
18 Christi, Texas, and Pensacola, Florida, he continued to be  
19 recognized for his academic abilities and leadership  
20 qualities; in 2011, he earned his wings and was assigned to fly  
21 the AH-1W Cobra attack helicopter at Camp Pendleton in  
22 California; he was assigned to Training Squadron 303, Marine  
23 Aircraft Group 39 of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at Air

1 Station Miramar in San Diego, California at the time of his  
2 passing; and

3 WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann was preceded in death by his  
4 maternal grandmother; his maternal step-grandmother; his  
5 paternal grandfather; and his paternal step-grandfather; and

6 WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann is survived by his parents,  
7 Tom and Mary Therese (Leonard) Heitmann; his brother, Aaron  
8 Heitmann; his sisters, Rachel (Dave) Christensen, Hannah  
9 (Matt) Pozzi, Sarah (Abe) Henkel, and Mary Elizabeth Heitmann;  
10 his paternal grandmother, Eleanore Sjostrom; his maternal  
11 grandfather, James Leonard; his nieces, Ella and Nora Henkel;  
12 his nephews, Terrapin and Xavier Christensen; and his many  
13 aunts and uncles; and

14 WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann's patriotism and courage  
15 will be remembered fondly by his loving family, his fellow  
16 soldiers, and the citizens of our grateful nation; therefore,  
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
20 his family and friends, the passing of United States Marine  
21 Corps Captain Thomas John Heitmann; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Capt. Thomas Heitmann as an  
3 expression of our sympathy.