

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of  
3 Illinois were saddened to learn of the combat death of  
4 Private Jonathan Lee Gifford, United States Marine Corps, of  
5 Decatur on March 23, 2003 in Iraq; and

6 WHEREAS, Private Gifford was a member of the 1st  
7 Battalion, 2nd Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade of  
8 the United States Marine Corps; he was killed in action near  
9 An Nasiriyah in an ambush while his unit was securing  
10 bridges; and

11 WHEREAS, Private Gifford was born on October 30, 1972 to  
12 Vicky J. Langley and John L. Gifford; he graduated from  
13 Stephen Decatur High School in 1991; he had been employed at  
14 Archer Daniels Midland before joining the United States  
15 Marine Corps on October 30, 2001; joining the Marine Corps  
16 was an ambition he had decided upon as a teenager; and

17 WHEREAS, Private Gifford always fought for the underdog,  
18 so it was fitting that he fought for the Iraqi people; and

19 WHEREAS, The passing of Private Jonathan Lee Gifford has  
20 been deeply felt by many, especially his daughter, Lexie  
21 LeeAnn Gifford; his former wife, Vickey; his father, John  
22 Gifford and wife Carol; his mother, Vicky Langley and husband  
23 Tim; his sisters, Valerie Gifford and Tiffany Blastenbrei and  
24 husband, Marine Staff Sgt. Todd Blastenbrei; his nephew,  
25 Mason Gifford; his grandparents, Ronald and Peggy Gifford and  
26 William and Reva Godfrey, Jr.; and many other family members  
27 who loved him; he was preceded in death by his grandmother,  
28 Janet Gould, and his sister, Jennifer; therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
30 OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that together with his family,  
31 friends, and this great nation, we mourn the passing of

1 Private Jonathan Lee Gifford, United States Marine Corps, and  
2 extend to his family and friends our deepest condolences; and  
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we honor the memory of Private Gifford and  
5 his willingness to serve our country, which led to him making  
6 the ultimate sacrifice; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Private Jonathan Lee Gifford,  
9 United States Marine Corps, as an expression of our sincere  
10 sympathy during their time of loss.