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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 Corporal Albert Bitton of Chicago, who was killed in the line of duty on February 19, 2008 in Baghdad, Iraq; and

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WHEREAS, Corporal Albert Bitton grew up in West Rogers Park; he graduated from Ida Crown Jewish Academy, where he was a member of the school wrestling team, developed his great artistic talent, and made many friends; and

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WHEREAS, Corporal Albert Bitton aspired to be a doctor his entire life; he had shown an unusual talent for medical matters even as a child; his love for medicine drove him to serve his country in the armed forces; and

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WHEREAS, Stirred by his intense patriotism and his need for medical training for his planned future career as a surgeon, Corporal Albert Bitton joined the United States Army in December 2005 as a medic with the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); he had been stationed in Iraq since October of 2007; and

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WHEREAS, Corporal Albert Bitton was particularly proud of

1 his Jewish heritage; he attended Congregation K.I.N.S. of West  
2 Rogers Park, an Orthodox synagogue, with his family; even  
3 during his tour of duty, he would consistently put on his  
4 tefillin and pray every morning; he also put up a large Israeli  
5 flag in his barracks, which he displayed proudly; and

6 WHEREAS, Corporal Albert Bitton is survived by his wife,  
7 Melissa Handelman; his parents, Elie and Silvia Bitton; and his  
8 sisters, Elizabeth and Jackie; and

9 WHEREAS, Corporal Albert Bitton will be remembered by all  
10 who knew and loved him as a fun, caring, and friendly soldier,  
11 family member, and friend whose piety and patriotism were  
12 unmatched; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
15 his family and friends, the passing of United States Army  
16 Corporal Albert Bitton; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we honor the memory of Corporal Albert  
18 Bitton and his willingness to serve our country, which led to  
19 him making the ultimate sacrifice; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Corporal Albert Bitton as an

1 expression of our sympathy.