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

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WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann was accepted to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida; he was the recipient of the National Naval Reserve

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1 Officer Training Corps Marine Option Scholarship in the fall of
2 2006, beating out every Midshipman in the nation for the award;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann was commissioned as an
5 officer in the United States Marine Corps in 2008; after
6 completing his training at the Naval Air Stations in Corpus
7 Christi, Texas, and Pensacola, Florida, he continued to be
8 recognized for his academic abilities and leadership
9 qualities; in 2011, he earned his wings and was assigned to fly
10 the AH-1W Cobra attack helicopter at Camp Pendleton in
11 California; he was assigned to Training Squadron 303, Marine
12 Aircraft Group 39 of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at Air
13 Station Miramar in San Diego, California at the time of his
14 passing; and

15 WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann was preceded in death by his
16 maternal grandmother; his maternal step-grandmother; his
17 paternal grandfather; and his paternal step-grandfather; and

18 WHEREAS, Capt. Thomas Heitmann is survived by his parents,
19 Tom and Mary Therese (Leonard) Heitmann; his brother, Aaron
20 Heitmann; his sisters, Rachel (Dave) Christensen, Hannah
21 (Matt) Pozzi, Sarah (Abe) Henkel, and Mary Elizabeth Heitmann;
22 his paternal grandmother, Eleanore Sjostrom; his maternal
23 grandfather, James Leonard; his nieces, Ella and Nora Henkel;

1 his nephews, Terrapin and Xavier Christensen; and his many
2 aunts and uncles; therefore, be it

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

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Capt. Thomas Heitmann as an
9 expression of our sympathy.