

2011-K114

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Specialist Blake D. Whipple, of Amherst, New York, and paying tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army

WHEREAS, The courage and bravery of our military personnel since the United States Armed Forces commenced action in the Middle East will ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and as a defender of liberty for people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York who have served so valiantly and honorably during these times of conflict deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body mourns the untimely death of Specialist Blake D. Whipple, of Amherst, New York, and pays tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Blake D. Whipple, a 21-year-old combat engineer, died on November 5, 2010, in Ghazi Province, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Born in Detroit, Michigan, Blake Whipple came to Amherst with his family in 1995 and lived in Baltimore, Maryland from 2000 until the family returned to New York State in 2006; he was a 2007 graduate of Williamsville East High School; and

WHEREAS, Blake Whipple attended St. Bonaventure University, Erie Community College and Buffalo State College before joining the United States Army in 2009; he was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, from the 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum; and

WHEREAS, Blake Whipple enjoyed playing baseball, football, hockey and video games; he also loved rock music and especially took pleasure in having his own show on St. Bonaventure's student-run radio station; and

WHEREAS, Blake Whipple is survived by his parents, David and Kim; two brothers, Brian and Sean; and two grandparents, Arthur and Elizabeth; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country; the freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Specialist Blake D. Whipple, of Amherst, New York, and pay tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Specialist Blake D. Whipple.