

## 2011-J2554

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Sergeant Merlin German and paying tribute to his devoted service as a member of the United States Marines

WHEREAS, The courage and bravery of our military personnel ensures 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, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body mourns the untimely death of Sergeant Merlin German, and pays tribute to his devoted service as a member of the United States Marines; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Merlin German died on April 11, 2008, at the age of 22, at Brooke Army Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Merlin German was born in Manhattan, New York, to Hemery and Lourdes German, immigrants from the Dominican Republic; he grew up in Washington Heights and moved to Greensburgh, New York, in 2001 where he attended Woodlands High School for his junior and senior years; and

WHEREAS, He enlisted in the Marine Corps on September 8, 2003, and received a meritorious promotion to Private First Class (PFC) out of boot camp; in April of 2004, he transferred to his first permanent duty station, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division where he served as a Field Artillery Cannoneer; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after Merlin German was assigned to his unit, he was sent to Machine-gunner's Course; among the Corporals and Sergeants, he was the only Private First Class to attend the course; he graduated second in his class; and

WHEREAS, In September 2004, Sergeant Merlin German was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; his parent unit was 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California; and

WHEREAS, On September 28, 2007, Sergeant Merlin German was medically retired, as a result of his injuries; and

WHEREAS, After regaining his ability to walk, Sergeant Merlin German purchased a home in San Antonio, Texas, and founded the Merlin's Miracles charity organization, to help child burn victims; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Merlin German is survived by his loving parents and his sisters Marcia and Lawren, as well as his brothers, Ariel, Freddie, Johnny, Alejandro and Julio; and

WHEREAS. Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Sergeant Merlin German leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Sergeant Merlin German, and to pay tribute to his devoted service as a member of the United States Marines; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Sergeant Merlin German.