

2005 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 426

Offered January 19, 2005

Celebrating the life of Gunnery Sergeant Elia P. Fontecchio.

Patrons—Stolle, Blevins and Wagner; Delegates: McDonnell, Purkey, Suit, Tata, Wardrup and Welch

WHEREAS, United States Marine Gunnery Sergeant Elia P. Fontecchio was killed in action in Iraq on August 4, 2004; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Milford High School in Milford, Massachusetts, Elia Fontecchio joined the Marine Corps in 1993; and

WHEREAS, during his career in the Marine Corps, Sergeant Fontecchio earned Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Marine Security Guard Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Third Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, First Marine Expeditionary Force based in Twentynine Palms, California, Sergeant Fontecchio was two weeks away from the end of his second tour of duty in Iraq at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fontecchio was killed in action during a fight in Al-Anbar Province, Iraq, near the Syrian border; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Elia Fontecchio's death is a reminder of the hazards faced daily by the thousands of young Americans who serve in our armed forces overseas and whose devotion to duty places them in harm's way; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of a courageous and patriotic American, Gunnery Sergeant Elia P. Fontecchio; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Gunnery Sergeant Elia P. Fontecchio as an expression of the high regard in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly and the citizens of Virginia.

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