

2008 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 452

Offered February 22, 2008

Celebrating the life of Staff Sergeant Jason R. Arnette.

Patron—Wright

WHEREAS, United States Army Staff Sergeant Jason R. Arnette died on April 1, 2007, from wounds suffered in the line of duty as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, born in Henrico County, Jason Arnette grew up in Amelia County and graduated from Amelia County High School in 2001, where he was an Air Force JROTC cadet and a member of the soccer team; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 after completing boot camp at Fort Benning, Georgia, Jason Arnette was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment at Camp Greaves, South Korea; in November 2003, he was reassigned to the 2nd Battalion (known as the "Golden Dragon" battalion), 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division based at Fort Drum, New York; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Arnette served three tours of duty in Iraq: from December 2003 to March 2004, from January to June 2005, and from August 2006 until his death; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Arnette's military education included the EMT/Paramedic Refresher Course, Warrior Leader Course, Combat Lifesaver Course, and Dragon Anti-tank Missile Trainer Course; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Arnette received numerous awards and decorations, including a posthumous Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, and Combat Infantryman Badge; and

WHEREAS, always interested in helping others, as a teenager Jason Arnette went to Guatemala twice on church-sponsored trips, once to help build an orphanage and another time to work on a medical center; and

WHEREAS, known for his friendliness and his ability to connect with all kinds of people as well as his tremendous discipline and desire to excel, Staff Sergeant Arnette, who was preceded in death by his father, William, will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his mother, Michelle; his wife, Shenandoah Sky; his two sisters, Tonya and Shelby-Grace; and countless other family members, friends, and fellow soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Arnette's death is a reminder of the perils faced daily by the thousands of 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 House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of a courageous and patriotic Virginian, Staff Sergeant Jason R. Arnette; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Staff Sergeant Jason R. Arnette as an expression of the high regard in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

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