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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 244

Offered March 8, 2010

Celebrating the life of Sergeant Brandon T. Islip, USA.

Patrons—Watkins; Delegate: Ware, R.L.

WHEREAS, United States Army Sergeant Brandon T. Islip, a paratrooper from Chesterfield County, was listed as missing on November 4, 2009, when he bravely dove into a river with a fellow soldier in an attempt to recover supplies during a re-supply mission in western Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Islip, on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, was declared deceased on November 29, 2009, when his body was found in the Bala Murghab River; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Monacan High School, Sergeant Islip enlisted in the Army in January of 2006, and was a member of the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Islip was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Islip was a true patriot and focused individual who always strove to complete the mission while looking out for the well-being of his fellow soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Islip came from a large and loving family that has endured other tragedies since his death; his great grandmother Lucy Islip lost all of her belongings in a fire and her daughter, Sergeant Islip's aunt, June Woodcock, died from injuries sustained in a house fire; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Islip will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Sonja; his father, George; his mother, Allison; sister, Scarlett; and many other members of his loving family who continue to persevere with love and grace; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Islip'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 Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of a dedicated soldier and outstanding Virginian, Sergeant Brandon T. Islip; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Sergeant Brandon T. Islip 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.

INTRODUCED

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