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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 942

Offered February 14, 2017

Celebrating the life of Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator William Ryan Owens.

Patrons—Knight, Filler-Corn, Aird, Anderson, Austin, Bell, John J., Bell, Richard P., Bell, Robert B., Bloxom, Bourne, Boysko, Bulova, Byron, Campbell, Carr, Cole, Collins, Cox, Davis, Fariss, Fowler, Freitas, Garrett, Gilbert, Greason, Habeeb, Hayes, Head, Helsel, Heretick, Herring, Hester, Hodges, Holcomb, Hope, Howell, Hugo, Ingram, James, Jones, Keam, Kilgore, Kory, Krizek, Landes, LaRock, Leftwich, Levine, Lindsey, Lingamfelter, Loupassi, Marshall, R.G., Massie, McQuinn, Miller, Minchew, Mullin, Murphy, O'Bannon, Peace, Pillion, Plum, Pogge, Poindexter, Price, Rasoul, Robinson, Sickles, Simon, Stolle, Sullivan, Torian, Toscano, Tyler, Villanueva, Ward, Ware, Watts, Webert, Wilt, Wright, Yancey and Yost; Senators: Barker, Carrico, Chafin, Chase, Cosgrove, Deeds, DeSteph, Dunnavant, Ebbin, Favola, Lewis, Marsden, McClellan, McDougale, Obenshain, Peake, Petersen, Reeves, Ruff, Spruill, Sturtevant, Vogel and Wagner

WHEREAS, Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator William Ryan Owens, a decorated member of the elite United States Navy SEAL Team 6, was killed in action while serving his country in Yemen on January 29, 2017; and

WHEREAS, a native of Peoria, Illinois, Ryan Owens attended Illinois Valley Central High School, where he played catcher on the baseball team and was a member of the football team; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Owens fulfilled his lifelong dream to serve his country as a member of the United States Navy when he enlisted in August 1998; he graduated from Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training in 2002 and had been stationed in Virginia Beach as a SEAL since 2007; and

WHEREAS, in 12 deployments, Ryan Owens had earned the Navy/Marine Corps Medal, three Bronze Stars, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, and a Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, among many other decorations; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Owens' courageous service and sacrifice is a reminder of the dangers faced by American men and women in uniform around the world, who voluntarily go into harm's way in the defense of freedom and liberty; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Owens will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his loving wife, Carryn; their children, Brooke, Luke, and Taryn; his father, William; his grandmother, Evelyn; and numerous other family members, friends, and fellow SEALs; 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 Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator William Ryan Owens, a United States Navy SEAL who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; 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 Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator William Ryan Owens as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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