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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 774

Offered January 21, 2009

*Celebrating the life of Staff Sergeant Jeremiah Emmanuel McNeal.*

Patrons—Alexander, Abbitt, Albo, Barlow, Bouchard, Brink, Caputo, Cline, Cole, Cosgrove, Crockett-Stark, Englin, Hall, Hargrove, Hogan, Hull, Iaquinto, Janis, Joannou, Johnson, Knight, Lewis, Lingamfelter, Marsden, Marshall, D.W., Mathieson, Melvin, Merricks, Miller, P.J., Morgan, Nichols, Nixon, Nutter, Phillips, Plum, Poindexter, Poisson, Purkey, Putney, Saxman, Scott, J.M., Sherwood, Sickles, Tata, Toscano, Ware, O., Ware, R.L. and Watts; Senators: Howell, Hurt, Lucas, McDougle, McEachin, Miller, Y.B., Quayle, Smith, Stuart, Vogel, Wagner and Watkins

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Jeremiah Emmanuel McNeal, age 23, a resident of Norfolk, was killed in the line of duty on April 6, 2008, while valiantly serving his country in Baghdad, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Jeremiah McNeal was born in Norfolk on November 16, 1984, the son of Malcolm McNeal and Pamela Gaynor, and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Jeremiah McNeal worked as a technician for Raytheon in Norfolk, where he was a dedicated member of his department and respected by peers and supervisors alike; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McNeal enlisted in the Virginia National Guard in August 2002, left his hometown on July 19, 2007, for training at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, and reported for his second tour of duty in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on September 26, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McNeal was an excellent soldier and a team leader, serving with the Virginia Army National Guard's 237th Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 91st Troop Command based in West Point; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McNeal's military awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, and Combat Action Badge; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McNeal was married to the former Nikita Simmons of Norfolk, and was devoted to his wife, their son Jordien, and his many close relatives and wonderful friends; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McNeal'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 Jeremiah Emmanuel McNeal; 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 Jeremiah Emmanuel McNeal 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.

INTRODUCED

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