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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 386

Offered January 22, 2009

Celebrating the life of Staff Sergeant Jesse A. Ault.

Patron—Puckett

WHEREAS, United States Army Staff Sergeant Jesse A. Ault, a beloved citizen of the Town of Dublin, was killed in the line of duty on April 9, 2008, while valiantly serving his country in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Jesse "Jess" Ault grew up in West Virginia and graduated from Tyler Consolidated High School, where he played football and baseball; and

WHEREAS, Jess Ault joined the United States Army, along with his best friend Travis, before they even graduated from high school; the two were as close as brothers, completing basic training and advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood and Airborne training at Fort Benning together, as well as serving four years on active duty and moving to Virginia to join the Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Jess Ault met his wonderful wife Betsy Allen, who is also a veteran, during military summer training in 2002, and the couple grew close and fell in love while their units were deployed in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, a conscientious and professional soldier and a devoted family man, Staff Sergeant Ault reenlisted and took his wife's place when she was recalled to active duty so she could remain home with their three children, Nathan, Adam, and Rachel; happily, the family was able to be together in Dublin for the birth of their daughter in January 2008; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ault was a motor transport operator assigned to E Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, Virginia Army National Guard, based in Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ault died on April 9, 2008, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device as his convoy conducted operations near Tunnis, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Jess Ault was an avid West Virginia University sports fan and an enthusiastic follower of Jeff Gordon's NASCAR racing career, Denver Broncos football, and Atlanta Braves baseball; he also loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing and golfing; and

WHEREAS, Jess Ault will be fondly remembered by his wife, family, and numerous friends as a loving and dedicated father and husband and a brave and loyal soldier; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ault's death is a reminder of the hazards 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 courageous and patriotic Virginian, Staff Sergeant Jesse A. Ault; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Staff Sergeant Jesse A. Ault 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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