

2011 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5037

Celebrating the life of Major Charles A. Ransom.

Agreed to by the Senate, June 9, 2011
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, June 9, 2011

WHEREAS, United States Air Force Major Charles A. Ransom, a Virginia Military Institute alumnus who was stationed in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, died in the line of duty on April 27, 2011; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Charles Ransom displayed the natural leadership and intelligence that would eventually make him an outstanding military officer and take him around the world in service to his country as a proud member of the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Midlothian High School where he was an outstanding student and star athlete of the football and baseball teams, Charles Ransom majored in computer science at Virginia Military Institute and was a cadet corporal, platoon sergeant, and Rat Challenge corporal in addition to vice president of the Class of 2001; and

WHEREAS, commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation, Charles Ransom completed Basic Communication Training and reported to the 2d Communications Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base as a communications and information project officer; and

WHEREAS, Charles Ransom's strong technical skills and devotion to duty led to his promotion to chief of communications maintenance support with the 621st Air Mobility Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, following the completion of his tour, Charles Ransom attended Squadron Officer School before reporting to duty as the wing executive officer and director of operations at the 39th Air Base Wing, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; and

WHEREAS, Charles Ransom was then assigned to the 83rd Network Operations Squadron, 67th Network Warfare Wing, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, where he served as flight commander, plans and programs officer; and

WHEREAS, while stationed in the United States, Captain Ransom managed projects directed by the Headquarters Air Force, the Air Force Network Integration Center, and the Air Force Space Command that supported network delivery to six major commands and 356,000 Air Force users; and

WHEREAS, a well-respected officer who exemplified the high standards of the United States Air Force, Captain Ransom also led a 19-member flight-providing squadron planning a \$6.4 million budget for Air Force Network Operations Missions; and

WHEREAS, Captain Ransom had previously served at the Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, in support of the 370th Expeditionary Mission Support Group and Camp Victory, Iraq, in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq C6; and

WHEREAS, deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Captain Ransom served as a trainer assisting the Afghan National Security Forces; he, along with seven other American NATO International Security Assistance Force service members and a United States civilian contractor, died at the Afghan Air Force Compound in Kabul when an Afghan pilot opened fire; and

WHEREAS, Captain Ransom, who had been selected for promotion to major in 2010 and was to be pinned in 2011, was posthumously promoted to the rank of major; and

WHEREAS, Major Ransom was a highly decorated officer whose medals included a Purple Heart, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Major Ransom's death is a solemn 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; and

WHEREAS, a man of great integrity, faith, and honor, Charles Ransom will be greatly missed by his parents, Willie and Mary Sue; his brother, Stephen; the love of his life, Naquita; his numerous other family members and friends; his Brother Rats; and his fellow Airmen; 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 who rendered invaluable service to his country, Major Charles A. Ransom; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Major Charles A. Ransom as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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