

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-first Legislature Second Regular Session - 2012

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND HONORING SEVEN IDAHO SERVICEMEN
WHO FOUGHT AND LOST THEIR LIVES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WITHIN THE PAST
YEAR.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, American service members, many of them Idahoans, or their family members have served their country honorably and at great personal sacrifice in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, seven persons with Idaho ties paid the ultimate sacrifice within the past year; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Army Private First Class Robert Near was killed in action in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on January 7, 2011, and has ties to the Nampa area. Those who knew Robert Near from his grandmother to his Army commanders remember him as happy. His grandmother said of him that you could not make him mad and that "never in his life did he sass me." Robert and his father lived with his grandmother who would play video games with him and Robert would pull weeds for her in her yard. His father said Robert grew up with a healthy curiosity, a penchant for chess and a positive attitude. Robert moved to Nampa and studied computer programming and repair at the Centennial Job Corps. Robert is survived by his grandmother, father, a brother and three sisters; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Army Sergeant Nathan Beyers of Coeur d'Alene was killed in action on July 7, 2011, in Baghdad, Iraq. Nathan had been an Idaho resident for a number of years and his wife Vanessa Beyers and daughter, born November 11, 2010, live in the Coeur d'Alene area. An avid hunter, fisherman, camper and golfer, Nathan is most remembered as a dedicated family man. Recalling his visit home on leave a few months after the birth of their daughter, Vanessa said, "Nathan was proud of his job and of serving our country. He died doing something he loved and was such a brave person"; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Army Specialist Nicholas Newby of Coeur d'Alene was killed in action on July 7, 2011, in Baghdad, Iraq. Nicholas could play a variety of musical instruments, including guitar, bass guitar, saxophone and drums. He was intellectually curious and an avid reader. While in Iraq Nick was completing college courses via the Internet. His parents said Nick would do anything for anybody who needed his help. He would stick by his friends and never gave up on anybody. He also enjoyed his truck and loved thrashing it and then fixing it. He had a great sense of humor ever since he was a kid. Once he saw his pregnant mother drinking orange juice and said, "Mom, you're getting orange juice all over the baby." Nick loved his family and everybody loved him. He is survived by his mother, father, stepmother, stepfather and two brothers; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Army Sergeant Devin Daniels of Council was killed in action on August 25, 2011, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Devin was raised

1 in Council and graduated from Eagle High School. Devin was a new father and
2 was able to be home on leave for the birth of his daughter in January of 2011.
3 Devin also loved hunting in Idaho with his dad, and loved the outdoors in gen-
4 eral. He told his mom, "You can take the boy out of Idaho, but you can never
5 take Idaho out of the boy." Devin and his mother live by the motto "Winners
6 never quit, and quitters never win." Devin is survived by his wife and daugh-
7 ter, his parents, grandparents, great-great grandmother, two brothers and a
8 sister; and

9 WHEREAS, U.S. Army Specialist Robert Dyas of Nampa was killed in action
10 on September 21, 2011, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Robert loved the great
11 outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. Robert said that he drew daily on
12 the hunting instincts taught to him by his stepfather. Robert was reared and
13 educated in Nampa where he blossomed into an outstanding young man. Robert
14 attended elementary school through high school in Nampa, where he played
15 baseball, starting with T-ball, on up through Skyview High School. He also
16 played golf in high school where Nampa mayor Tom Dale was his mentor. Robert
17 earned his GED and took night classes to become an electrician, and by day
18 was an apprentice working for an electrical contractor. Robert had a sense
19 of humor unlike any other. No matter who he was around, he could make you
20 cry from laughing. He loved classic hot-rod cars and had just purchased a
21 1966 Pontiac LeMans on eBay. He dreamed of owning a small farm, starting a
22 family with his fiancée and driving his Pontiac. Robert is survived by his
23 father and mother, stepfather, grandfather, four sisters, a brother and his
24 fiancée; and

25 WHEREAS, U.S. Army Sergeant Ryan Sharp of Idaho Falls was injured in
26 Pa'in Kelay, Afghanistan, and passed on December 3, 2011, at Landstuhl Re-
27 gional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany. Ryan was a graduate of Skyline
28 High School in Idaho Falls. He enjoyed baseball, welding and spending time
29 outdoors. Ryan will be remembered for his compassion, his kind heart and
30 his love for his country. After enlisting in the U.S. Army in October 2002,
31 Ryan proudly served his country on three tours of duty, one in Iraq, and he
32 was serving his second tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring
33 Freedom. His sister Michelle said, "Ryan was proud to be a soldier. He did
34 it with exactness. He did his job with integrity." Ryan is survived by two
35 daughters, a stepdaughter, his mother and father, two brothers, two sisters
36 and paternal grandparents; and

37 WHEREAS, U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kenneth Cochran of Wilder was
38 killed in action on January 15, 2012, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Ken-
39 neth was a graduate of Parma High School. While in school he was very active
40 in the COSSA auto program, winning numerous awards. While in school, Kenneth
41 won first place in the district's Patriot's Pen Contest. He placed second in
42 the Veterans of Foreign Wars Regional Competition. Kenneth was outgoing and
43 enthusiastic -- a genuinely nice young man, who didn't know a stranger. He
44 was well-liked and admired by fellow students and his coworkers in the Marine
45 Corps. He was always the first to work and the last to leave. Kenneth lived
46 each day to the best of his ability, sharing his advanced skill set to benefit
47 friends and coworkers. While in Afghanistan he was fortunate to have served
48 some of his tour in a camp close to his older sister, Joyce, who is also serv-
49 ing in the theatre. He is survived by his father and mother who were both of-
50 ficers in the United States military, and his brother and two sisters.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
2 Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
3 Representatives concurring therein, that we honor and memorialize Private
4 First Class Robert J. Near, Sergeant Nathan R. Beyers, Specialist Nicholas
5 W. Newby, Sergeant Devin J. Daniels, Specialist Robert E. Dyas, Sergeant
6 Ryan David Sharp and Lance Corporal Kenneth E. Cochran for their unselfish
7 service to our country, fighting for our freedoms, and recognize, honor and
8 memorialize their ultimate sacrifice.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to
10 send a copy of this Concurrent Resolution to the immediate families of the
11 servicemen mentioned above.