

2013-K1167

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Sergeant Shawn Farrell II of Accord, New York, and paying tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army

WHEREAS, The courage and bravery of our military personnel since the United States Armed Forces commenced action in the Middle East will ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and as a defender of liberty for people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body mourns the untimely death of Sergeant Shawn Farrell II, and pays tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Shawn Farrell II, of Accord, New York, died on April 28, 2014, at the age of 24, while honorably serving his country in Nejrab District, Kapisa Province, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Shawn Farrell was born in Kingston, New York, and was a 2008 graduate of Rondout Valley High School; inspired by family members who served before him and the event of 9/11, this patriotic young man joined a United States Army Reserve Unit in Bullville, New York, during his senior year in high school and, immediately following graduation, went to active duty, training at Fort Benning, Georgia, before being assigned to Fort Riley in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Shawn Farrell was a 10th Mountain Division Soldier with 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team; he arrived at Fort Drum in May 2010 and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from March 2011 to March 2012; he left for his second tour of duty in Afghanistan in November 2013; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Shawn Farrell served with distinction; his awards

and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, the Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Air Assault Badge; in addition, this courageous soldier was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart medal; and

WHEREAS, Beloved by his community, Sergeant Shawn Farrell will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his love of the outdoors, and his generosity of spirit; he is survived by his wife, Allison Hilbrandt Farrell; parents, Shawn Farrell and Tracy Kelleher, and Heather and David Stokes; three brothers, Brandon and Jake Farrell, and David Stokes II; sisters, Jenna and Aidan Farrell, and two nieces, Sophie and Aubrey Farrell; as well as his mother and father-in-law, Mechelle and Brian Hilbrandt; and his sister-in-law Hannah Hilbrandt, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which our men and women served this country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who give of their lives for their beloved Nation; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Sergeant Shawn Farrell II, of Accord, New York, and to pay tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to the family of Sergeant Shawn Farrell II.